



The ancient castles are not only original defense structures, but also masterpieces of Chinese architectural aesthetics.

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Contrary to what many first time visitors to Edinburgh believe, Scots actually do speak English.

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“Some of my friends wondered why did I choose this indecent job? They even thought there was something wrong with my brain.”

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# BEIJING TODAY

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## Property Tycoon Sued

By Chu Meng

Beijing-based real estate tycoon Pan Shiyi is facing a lawsuit that breaks new ground in China's evolving legal system. The suit, which claims Pan infringed on minority shareholders' stock rights and interests, was lodged by three shareholders and former partners in Beijing Redstone International, of which Pan is the president and legal representative. The plaintiffs are claiming damages amounting to more than 100 million yuan (US \$12 million).

The lawsuit, called a Shareholder's Derivative Suit, was accepted by the Beijing Higher People's Court early this month. It is the first time a court in China has agreed to hear a case in which minority shareholders from a corporation have sought redress over alleged wrongdoings by the controlling shareholders.

The three plaintiffs are Wang Gang, Xie Guangxue and Yao Jun. Wang, now an American citizen, is president of a company called American Redstone, Xie Guangxue and Yao Jun are respectively chief economist and vice-general manager of Beijing Jianhua Times Real Estate Company, which they founded after leaving Redstone International.

The defendants are Beijing Redstone Jianwai Real Estate Company and Beijing Zhonghongtian Real Estate Company, both of which are legally represented by Pan Shiyi.

**Friends at first**

In March 2002, Pan signed a contract on behalf of Redstone International with Beijing First Machine Tool Plant, to develop a commercial and residential project on a 20,000-square-meter area of prime real estate in Beijing's new CBD.

Wang Gang, Xie Guangxue and Yao Jun jointly invested in the project and became members of the company's board of directors, holding 2.5 percent of stock each, while Pan Shiyi held 85 percent.

The huge project, later named Jianwai SOHO, is located on the site previously occupied by the Beijing First Machine Tool Plant, on the south-west corner of Jianguomenwai Dajie and the East Third Ring Road, opposite China World Trade Center.

Thanks to its advantageous location, apartments in the 400,000-square-metre development attracted an average price of over 15,000 yuan per square meter. It is estimated that Beijing Redstone International's net profits on the deal were around 1.8 billion yuan.

**Where has all the money gone?**

After its establishment in 1995, Beijing Redstone International invested 3 million yuan and jointly founded another company named Beijing Zhonghongtian Real Estate Company, accounting for 20 percent of its total registered capital. Beijing Zhonghongtian concentrated on developing a project called "Beijing Modern City" from 1998 to 2001. The

project returned a handsome profit, which parent company Beijing Redstone International shared among its shareholders big and small. Minority shareholders, including the three plaintiffs Wang, Xie and Yao, all received dividends.

At the end of 2001, when the Beijing Modern City project was almost finished, Xie Guangxue and Yao Jun ended their involvement with Redstone International and its joint venture Beijing Zhonghongtian, and began to pilot their own real estate business, setting up Beijing Jianhua Times Real Estate Company. However, they kept their shares in Redstone International, in order to continue receiving dividends.

But once they left Redstone International, they received no further information about the company's operational status and financial situation. "While we read more and more reports in different newspapers about Pan Shiyi seeking to have the company listed aboard, we began to think of making clear our interests in that company. On March 18 this year, because we were unable to acquire any valid reports on the financial revenue of the SOHO project, which we jointly invested in the past and, of course, are entitled to a share of the profits when the project makes money," Xie told *China Youth Daily* last Monday.

Xie continued, "therefore, we asked our lawyers to check the files at the Beijing Industry and Commerce Bureau. That is when we realized that Beijing Redstone International, of which we three plaintiffs are shareholders, was no longer a stockholder of Beijing Zhonghongtian. In fact, Pan had changed the name of Redstone International to SOHO China Real Estate Company right after we left the company in 2001. It is now a privately owned company belonging to Pan Shiyi and his wife."

Yao Jun, another plaintiff said, "At that time we believed in him and were willing to follow him to build our property developing business. Now, since the cake has grown bigger and bigger, we small shareholders just want Pan to give us our share, according to the rules of the game. Now Pan has taken private possession of SOHO China, which was originally Redstone International and which we cooperated together in. Now Pan is planning to list it both in New York and Hong Kong."

"Regardless of whether it is successfully listed on the overseas stock markets, we still insist on receiving the interest that is our due."

**All above board**

Pan Shiyi is quoted in an interview with *China Youth Daily* last Wednesday as saying, "I was extremely surprised that three of my former partners and close friends would file a lawsuit against me. I'll never forget how we worked together to start the business." Pan insists that he has done everything according to Chinese law and regulations in the opera-



Xinhua Photo

## Welcome Home!

Table-tennis singles and doubles gold medalist Zhang Yining receives an enthusiastic greeting from the team doctor at Beijing International Airport yesterday. A group of 224 Olympic athletes returned from Athens yesterday, including 17 gold medal winners.



Tenants have already started moving into the still under construction SOHO development. Photo by Li Yue

tion of his business.

When *Beijing Today* tried to contact Pan this week, he declined to be interviewed. SOHO China's head of public relations Xu Yang stated, "Mr. Pan doesn't feel it is necessary to say anything at the current stage, because he is actively talking and negotiating with Xie and Yao these days. He said they were all as close as brothers, especially at the beginning of their property-

developing career. Yao Jun was just a university student when began to work with him. Mr. Pan really doesn't want to go to the lengths of filing a lawsuit to solve their problems, because that would ruin their friendship.

Wan Benqing, an attorney with Beijing Zhongfu Law Firm, told *Beijing Today* Wednesday that the three plaintiffs "are confident of winning the case, as China is currently making great efforts to improve its legal system. Small shareholders should have more opportunities to have their voices heard and their interests protected."

According to Wan, this type of law suit, called a Shareholder's Derivative Suit, has been adopted in western countries in order to ensure equal rights not only to controlling shareholders on the board, but also equal rights to vindicate for the corporation as well. Damages awarded at trial or negotiated in a settlement of a derivative suit are paid to the corporation, not to the minority shareholders themselves. All derivative suit settlements must be approved by the court hearing the case.

He said that in China, this kind of legal process is still under construction, however many breakthrough steps have been taken to date. Furthermore, an increasing

number of legal specialists and corporations are beginning to pay attention to it.

Because the object of a Shareholder's Derivative Suit is to remedy damages incurred by a corporation as the result of breach of fiduciary duty by corporate officers, directors or controlling shareholders, it is a very important instrument for protecting the interests and profits of middle and small investors in a corporation.

However, Wan admitted, such shareholders still have a long way to go to find efficient methods of protecting their small slices of the pie.

## Beijing Seeks Olympic Economic Talent

By Liu An

The Personnel Department of the Beijing government and the Municipal Commission of Development and Reform are seeking high level applicants for two Olympics-related positions. The jobs, which are open to both Chinese and foreign applicants, both offer an annual salary of over 500,000 yuan.

Candidates are expected to have a doctoral degree in economics or equivalent qualification, more than two years experience in Olympics-related economic research, management or planning, and be fluent in both Chinese and English.

Responsibilities include research and planning for Beijing's economic development by utilizing Olympic opportunities, researching characteristics of Beijing's Olympic economic development, and researching, consulting, evaluating and advising on decisions made by the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform in the area of Olympic economic development.

The positions are one year renewable contracts, with a three-month probation period. The public recruiting process includes applicants' registration, qualification checking, interview, health check, background check, candidates voting and contract signing. Applicants can register on the websites [www.bjpc.gov.cn](http://www.bjpc.gov.cn) or [www.bjinvest.gov.cn](http://www.bjinvest.gov.cn) between September 1 and 30.

A spokesman for the commission said the public recruiting aims to leverage expert influence in the process of government decision making, which will increase Beijing's competitiveness, continue Beijing's development and enhance public services.

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## Free Personal Classifieds

Beijing Today is launching a free personal classifieds service. For sale and wanted ads, situations wanted and vacant, language exchange and personals, and rentals will be

printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to [info@ynet.com](mailto:info@ynet.com). Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.





Peter MacInnis, GM of Chongqing Cummins Engine Company, who has lived in Chongqing for six years, lodges his application for a green card at the Chongqing Public Security Bureau Wednesday.  
Xinhua Photo

# Green Cards Get Green Light

By James Liu

The Division of Exit-Entry Administration of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau received on Monday the first batch of ten applications from foreigners for permanent residence, marking the start of China's green card system.

The green card system got the green light with the approval of the Regulations on Examination and Approval of Permanent Residence of Aliens in China by the State Council on December 13 last year, and came into effect from August 15.

A prelude to the final step of reform was made last March when nearly 60 foreign residents were granted three-to-five year residence permits. During the extended residence period, those with long-term permits can enjoy favored visa treatment when entering and departing the country.

"Now the Ministry of Public Security is issuing permanent residence certificates to foreigners,

similar to the green card used by some foreign countries," Liu Jiewei, an official with the Entry-Exit Division of the bureau told *Beijing Today* Monday. According to Liu, foreigners granted permanent residence card can enter and leave the country freely with their passport and green card, without application for a visa. Another favored treatment is that during their stay in China, foreigners are not required to register their residence certificate annually and can change their address freely.

"However, it does not mean there will be a sudden influx of foreigners. There are still thresholds for foreigners applying for the green card," said Liu. Since 1986, the bureau has issued permanent residence certificates to 35 foreigners who have made great contributions to China's revolution and construction. Since the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, a total of 277 foreigners have been issued certificates of resettlement in Beijing from related state

administrations.

According to the newly issued regulations, eligibility for permanent residence mainly applies to high-level foreign personnel who hold posts in businesses which promote China's economic, scientific and technological development or social progress, foreign citizens who make relatively large direct investment in China, foreigners who have made outstanding contributions or are of special importance to China, and foreigners who come to China to be with their families.

The green card now has two types: five year validity and ten year validity. Certificates with five-year validity are granted to minors, while certificates with ten-year validity are granted to adults.

"The application, examination and issuing process for the green card will not exceed more than six months. Those who have been granted permanent residence can apply for the green card and receive it within one month," Liu said.

According to the regulation, the period of application acceptance should not exceed three months, the period of examination is limited to two months, and the final decision and issuing of certificate by the Ministry of Public Security should not exceed one month.

Joan Hinton from the United States, Kyoko Nakamura from Japan and eight other foreigners who already hold certificates of resettlement or permanent residence, filed their applications for the green card Monday. They can now change their old certificates to the unified green card for a fee of 300 yuan. "New applicants who meet the requirements of the revised permanent residence scheme can also apply for a green card. The cost is 1,500 yuan," said Liu.

Charles M. Martin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in the People's Republic of China, told *Beijing Today*, "it will be very convenient for those frequently traveling business people."

## Default on Project Costs Hits 366 Billion

By Wei Lixin

The accumulative total of defaults on project costs in the construction industry has reached 366 billion yuan, vice-minister of construction Huang Wei said yesterday. Speaking at a press conference on the progress in dealing with defaults on construction project costs and peasant workers' pay, Huang also outlined counter-measures that are to be introduced in an effort to tackle the problem.

Huang said there are some 38 million workers in the construction industry in China, 30 million of whom

are peasant workers. These laborers contribute substantially to the construction industry, while augmenting their income and benefiting the development of countryside. At present, of the total income of peasant workers' families, 40 percent comes from their salaries. But due to the default of project costs in construction and on these workers' salaries, a great number end up working for no payment at all.

Huang pointed out that thanks to the hard work of relevant departments, outstanding defaults on peasant workers' salaries from 2003 had been paid in full by now. Moreover, 121.7 billion in default on project costs in construction has also been covered. "The system for repayment of project cost defaults has gradually been set up, and prevention of new defaults will be strengthened in the future," he concluded.

## Thrift Called for in Olympic Constructions

By Sun Yongjian

The Standing Committee of the Beijing CPC Committee has highlighted thrift as a key guideline in preparations for hosting the 2008 Olympic Games.

At a conference of the Standing Committee Monday, it was reiterated that the construction of sporting facilities should be in line with both the demands of the games and utilization after the games, according to a report in Tuesday's *Beijing Youth Daily*.

Construction of Beijing's Olympic venues, including the main stadium and the swimming center, has been suspended, but would soon resume, according to

Beijing vice-mayor and executive president of the Beijing Olympics organizing committee Liu Jingming in an interview with Xinhua earlier this month.

The suspension of the building work is to allow budget evaluations and further feasibility studies.

The Standing Committee stressed that every possible avenue should be explored to lower the cost of construction as much as possible. Some gymnasiums should be constructed within universities, some multi-function gymnasiums should be constructed in areas where there are few such facilities.

## China to Cooperate with South Africa on Coal-to-Liquid Project

By Annie Wei

With the international oil prices again surging to record highs, alternative energy sources are looking increasingly attractive to businesses and governments.

A feasibility study jointly conducted between a group of Chinese companies and South African oil and chemicals company, Sasol, is due to be completed in early September, according to an article on the web site of the Ministry of Commerce. The two sides signed a letter of intent on two potential coal to liquid (CTL) projects on June 29.

A spokeswoman for the National Development and Reform Commission declined to comment to *Beijing Today* Wednesday when asked about the projects, saying, "We have lots of procedures to go through before returning journal-

ists questions."

Johann Van Rheede, Sasol media and communications manager, confirmed to *Beijing Today* Monday that the investigation is considering two potential sites, in Ningxia Autonomous Region and in Shaanxi Province, in the coal rich western area of China.

Currently, negotiations are ongoing no a memorandum of understanding on the first phase of a feasibility study. The total investment required cannot be determined until the feasibility study has been completed, which will be conducted jointly between Sasol and a group of Chinese companies, led by the Ningxia and Shenhua coal companies under the direction of the National Development and Reform Commission.

According to Rheede, Sasol will participate in the feasibility study and

will also make available its technical expertise in the indirect coal liquefaction process. To maximize economy of scale benefits, a CTL plant size should be in the order of 50,000 to 70,000 barrels per day.

According to the *International Herald Leader* on August 19, China's demand for oil will reach 0.27 billion tons this year, only 0.17 billion tons of which will be produced domestically. In 2005, the figure is forecast to rise to around 0.29 billion tons, with no significant increase in output. At the same time, statistics from the Ministry of Land and Resources show that by the end of 2002, China had 188.6 billion tons of coal reserves for direct usage. CTL is seen as a viable method of supplementing the oil shortfall.

However Rheede emphasized

that CTL ventures are highly capital intensive compared to conventional crude oil refineries, and therefore require substantial support from the host government, "If CTL can be successfully replicated in China, the Chinese government's participation will be vital. When Sasol embarked on the establishment of its current CTL plant in South Africa, the government provided significant support for the establishment of a sustainable and viable synthetic fuel industry." Established in 1950, Sasol is the largest company in Africa, with sales of R66 billion (US \$9.9 billion) last year. It operates the only commercial scale coal liquefaction plant operating in the world, at Secunda, about 150 kilometers from Johannesburg, which produces an equivalent of 150,000 barrels of oil a day.

## New Policy For HK and Foreign Investors

By Annie Wei

The Beijing Industry and Commercial Bureau (BICB) is to introduce a new policy aimed at making registration procedures easier for Hong Kong residents to invest in Beijing.

The policy will be released at the eighth Beijing and Hong Kong Economic Cooperation Meeting in Hong Kong on September 2, according to a document released by the BICB Tuesday.

BICB has unveiled a series of preferential policies, such as allowing Hong Kong companies to adopt their original English trademark as the company trademark directly; allowing mainland citizens to

open joint-venture businesses with investors from Hong Kong as well as from overseas; and allowing industrial property or non-patent technology to take up to 60 percent of the registered capital for high-tech companies opening in Zhongguancun Science and Technology Zone.

The Beijing Industry and Commercial Department, Hong Kong Companies Registry, Hong Kong Bankruptcy Management, Hong Kong Tax Bureau, Hong Kong Industry and Trade Bureau and other departments are currently holding discussions on setting up a system to cross-check information.

## Finance Regulation Not Prelude to QDII

By Wei Lixin

A new regulation released last Wednesday on overseas investments by domestic insurers has led to speculation that the introduction of Qualified Domestic Institutional Investors (QDII) is at hand. However the China Insurance Regulatory Commission (CIRC) denied the rumors Sunday.

According to the provisional regulation jointly issued by CIRC and the People's Bank of China last Wednesday, domestic insurance companies that meet solvency and asset requirements are allowed to invest up to 80 percent of their for-

eign exchange reserves in overseas debt markets. The move may easily be interpreted as a "prelude" to the QDII program.

CIRC spokesman Zeng Yujin poured water on such speculation, saying, "The foremost characteristic of QDII involves raising collective capital from the public, while the regulation means domestic insurers may invest their own foreign exchange assets, which is different from QDII. Furthermore, the new rules neither lead to the conversion of RMB exchange nor domestic capital outflow."

## 863 High-tech Plan Online

By Sun Yongjian

Important information about China's "863" high-tech plan is now available on the website of the Ministry of Science and Technology, China News Agency reported Monday.

Ma Songdem, deputy minister of Science and

Technology said information about the 863 plan, so-named because it was launched in March, 1986, would be made available to the public in order to promote fairness and transparency in the implementation of these hi-tech projects.

## Urban Land Inspection Underway

By Annie Wei

The Ministry of Land and Resources has launched the 2004 urban land value inspection, according to a report in Monday's *Beijing Youth Daily*.

The report says the inspection, which will include 50 cities in 30 provinces, will be com-

pleted before January 20 next year and will pay special attention to land value changes in the Yangtze and Pearl river deltas.

According to the report, city land value inspection considers such factors as location, land area, land value index, land trade samples and housing samples.

## HSK Waived for Some Foreign Students

By Annie Wei

Foreign students who study Chinese at secondary school level can now apply to study in China without sitting for the HSK (Chinese proficiency test), according to a report in the *Beijing News* last Saturday. The international cooperation and communication department of the Ministry of Education has recently issued a regulation to this effect.

A notice on the web

site of the Ministry of Education says the Education and Culture Section of Chinese embassies in foreign countries can provide schools with a certificate showing that Chinese is a required course. Foreign students can show a certified copy of the certificate to the university at which they are applying to study in China, allowing them to claim exemption from taking the test.

## New Management Rules for Great Wall

By Annie Wei

China Great Wall Association secretary Dong Yaohui told to Xinhua Monday that the State Council will issue a regulation aimed at protecting the Great Wall by the end of the year.

According to the new regulation, the Great Wall will be administered by the central government as opposed to the current system, which

leaves different sections of the wall under the control of various local and provincial governments.

The China Great Wall Association, with the help of volunteers, is currently compiling data, including exact measurements, state of repair, scenic descriptions and related information, which will be utilized in the drawing up of the new regulation.





Bank of China's shift was announced at a huge press conference on Thursday.

Photo by Zhang Jianfeng

# Bank of China Reborn as Joint Stock Company

By Sun Yongjian

As of yesterday, Bank of China Co., Ltd is the new name of the state-owned Bank of China. The change is a key step towards the bank's planned initial public offering, the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank, said on its website on Tuesday.

The extension of Bank of China's name indicates that its stock-holding reforms have been completed,

making it a joint stock bank instead of a completely state-owned investment bank.

Bank of China Co., Ltd. inherits the former incarnation's registered funds of 186.39 billion yuan as well as all of its assets, liabilities, creditor's rights and staff, the PBOC announcement said.

Central Huijin Investment Co. holds 100 percent of the bank's shares, occupies six of the 11 seats

on the bank's board and has sole responsibility for developing the bank on behalf of the central government, according to the statement.

*Beijing Youth Daily* reported on Wednesday that Liang Dingbang, chief consultant of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, would serve as the independent director of the renamed bank.

The remaining four board seats would go to presiding bank executives,

including Chairman of the Board Xiao Gang and newly appointed President Li Lihui, the article said.

Company-wide personnel reform efforts would be launched and a competitive employment commission formed by representatives of over 30 provincial arms and each department of the bank's headquarters to hone the bank's workforce, it said.

# Fuel Oil Futures Trading Resumes

Trading of fuel oil futures started in Shanghai Wednesday after a 10-year hiatus, giving the world's second-largest oil consumer an important tool with which to hedge risks.

The Shanghai Futures Exchange (SHFE) set a benchmark price of 2,098 yuan (US\$253.4) a ton for the seven contracts traded at the exchange.

Oil consumers in China, the world's second-largest oil consumer and third-largest importer, have long expected oil futures to hedge risks.

China Securities Regulatory

Commission (CSRC) Chairman Shang Fulin said the nation should speed up the establishment of an oil risk hedging mechanism, with fuel oil futures being just the start.

Fuel oil became the first futures product approved by that authority to resume trading since 1994, when regulators shut down the over-speculated futures market.

Shang said, "Fuel oil futures provide enterprises a platform to grasp pricing information in the market while hedging risks."

China consumed around 44 mil-



lion tons of fuel oil last year, compared with 3.44 million in 2002, according to an SHFE report. About half of that fuel oil was imported.

Both the regulator and the exchange are taking a cautious approach to the new derivatives.

Shang said China's futures market was a young, emerging market.

"It takes a lot of cultivation and effort to make a product mature after its launch. We need to have sufficient understanding and preparation for possible problems," he said Wednesday. (Xinhua)

# New White Paper Shines Light on Zhongguancun Trade

By Wei Lixin

This week's release of the *Zhongguancun Electronic Product Trade Industry White Paper 2003* was hailed as the first time that comprehensive figures on commercial activity in China's "Silicon Valley" has been made available.

The white paper was assembled by the Zhongguancun Electronic Product Commerce Organization based on information from six months of investigations conducted by US-based International Data Group.

"The most-valuable aspect of the report is the data on annual trade volume and operating turnover in Zhongguancun's electronic product industry," Guo Xu, general secretary of the organization told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday.

"The data covers 18 categories of products, including digital products, DVD players, electronic components and software."

Its initial conclusion is that annual sales of electronic products in the Zhongguancun area in 2003 reached 28 billion, with trading volume at 72 billion yuan. The Hailong Electronics Mall lead the large IT markets in the area in terms of turnover and trade volume, followed by the Dinghao Electronics Mall.

The paper points out that the area is facing a serious problem of disorderly and redundant development of sales centers for electronics, as retail floor space has nearly tripled in the last two to three years. The excessive growth has led to vicious competition, it says.

"Another 100,000 square meters of floor space of electronic malls is currently under construction, despite the very heated competition," Guo said.

He attributed the "blind investment" to several factors. "First, investors have rushed into the market without getting enough information and doing proper research. Second, the channels for communication are limited, meaning it is hard for investors to get information from relevant administration departments and trade organizations. Last is that investment approval procedures are not fully developed."

The white paper has raised some eyebrows by describing Zhongguancun as "the most important IT product distribution center in northern China", not as the country's "IT cen-

ter" or "Silicon Valley" as the area has long been known.

"There is no mistake here," Guo said. "Electronics trading is booming, but the local government and management of the Zhongguancun High-tech Park has long neglected the trade industry and failed to provide favorable policies for its development. Research and development, manufacturing and distribution should be a connected chain and no components can be ignored. We hope the government will attach proportional importance to their development and prop up the industry."

He noted that his organization would continue to publish annual white papers to provide reliable information for both investors and the local government.

British Virgin Islands-based Joyo.com was founded in 2000 with support from Chinese software company Kingsoft and computer maker Lenovo Group.

Amazon was less successful in its attempt earlier this month to buy Joyo.com's main domestic rival Dangdang.com, *NewsFactor* said. Dangdang.com executives deemed a merger or acquisition deal with Amazon "too risky", it said.

deal within the third quarter, making Joyo.com its seventh global website, the report said.

"We are very pleased to be entering the Chinese market with Joyo.com," Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon.com, was quoted as saying.

"In a relatively short time, Joyo.com has established itself as the leading online destination for books, music and videos in China,

and we're happy to be part of one of the world's most dynamic markets."

Joyo marketing department manager Wang Dan told *Beijing Today* on Monday that the \$75 million sum would include \$72 million in cash and \$3 million through the assumption of employee stock options. Amazon will be the sole shareholder of Joyo.com after the deal goes through.

## Oil Prices Rise Again

By Annie Wei

The third nationwide price shift for oil this year has raised the cost of gas in Beijing once again, *Beijing Youth Daily* said Wednesday.

Oil product prices rose by an average of six to eight percent, the newspaper said.

Surging international oil prices have forced China to update its prices to help factories handle refining costs since the country's price standards rely on the New York, Singapore and Rotterdam indexes, the report said.

High oil prices should have significant impact on China because of its reliance on oil to fuel its booming economy and its lack of ability to influence international oil prices, Tao Dong, chief economics analyst for Credit Suisse First Boston (CSFB) Asia, wrote



Paying more to pump: oil prices have been hiked an average of six to eight percent.

in his report *China: Life Under \$40 Oil* released on August 11.

Niu Li, an economic analyst from the State Information Center was quoted as saying in the *Shanghai Securities Post* last week that if oil prices continued to rise, it could result in a 0.7 to 0.8 percent drop in China's 2004 GDP.

## Telecom Provider Peels Off from Rail Ministry

By Sun Yongjian

China Tietong, formerly known as China Railway Communication Co. (China Railcom), one of this country's six major domestic telecommunication operators, last Friday changed its name to China Tietong Telecommunications Corp, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported on Monday.

The corporation also separated from the Ministry of Railways to become an independent operator under the umbrella of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), effectively putting China Tietong under the leadership of

China's State Council, a statement on the company's website said.

One effect of the shift was a temporary shortage of funding, as the company used to receive money from the ministry, *Beijing Youth Daily* said.

"We need to do everything we can to attract funds," Zhao Jibin, new chairman of the board of China Tietong, said last Friday.

"All sorts of fund source channels should be explored, such as bank loans, issuing bonds or initial public offering and seeking strategic partners," SASAC Deputy President Wang Ruixiang said.

## Swiss Investment Bank Ok'd for Derivative Business

By Sun Yongjian

Chinese authorities granted a license last Friday to Swiss-based investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston to launch derivative business in China, making it the first overseas investment bank to receive such permission, the *China Economic Times* reported on Sunday.

Paul Calello, CEO and chairman of the Asia & Pacific region for Credit Suisse was quoted as saying he expected demand for financial derivative products to increase steadily in this country.

"Our strategic target is to establish a comprehensive financial service platform," Calello said.

The *China Economic*

*Times* said the bank was planning to launch its new derivative business through its Shanghai subsidiary.

This February, the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) issued regulations allowing foreign financial institutions to launch derivative business with domestic enterprises.

US-based Citibank Group became the first foreign bank to open such business in China after receiving CBRC approval in June. To date, more than 20 overseas financial groups including JP Morgan, HSBC and Deutscher Bank have applied to the commission to launch derivative business.

## Rover Ready to Join SAIC Family

By Sun Yongjian

British carmaker MG Rover announced Monday that it welcomed the friendly takeover arranged with Chinese auto maker SAIC, *Shanghai Youth Daily* reported Wednesday.

Xue Hao, a spokesman for Shanghai-based SAIC, would not comment on the announcement.

A *Beijing Morning Post* article said Thursday that the take-over deal had started with negotiations for establishing a joint venture in China two months ago. However, MG Rover's weak financial condition led the talks to switch to the topic of a SAIC purchase of the ailing British carmaker.

## Cutting-edge Appliances on Show

By Sun Yongjian

The four-day Global Home Appliance Expo, sponsored by giant Chinese appliance retailer Gome, opened Thursday in Beijing, the *Beijing Morning Post* reported.

"This is the first home appliance expo to take the form of annual car shows, which we feel is a necessary step considering the rapid development of China's home appliance industry," Gome spokesman

Yan Qinghai told *Beijing Today* on Thursday.

The show was intended to not only introduce consumers to the newest trends in home appliances, but also to try to perk up sales in the normally dead late summer season, Yan said.

Nearly 300 domestic and overseas home appliance producers including Hisense, Haier, Chunlan, Changhong, Sony, Panasonic and Samsung are participating.



# Unions Protest Overtime Regulations

Washington, August 24 (AP) – Several hundred union members marched outside the Labor Department to protest new overtime pay regulations taking effect Monday, with two senators pledging to try to roll them back when Congress returns from recess.

Protesters, many wearing union T-shirts, carried signs such as “President Bush: Hands off my overtime pay,” and chanted, “Come on all you billionaires, give us wages that are fair.”

Congress reconvenes September 7, but critics of the rules acknowledge a repeal is a long shot, given the threat of a veto by Bush.

Employers have sought the changes for decades, complaining the rules were ambiguous and out of date, and questioning why highly paid professionals should get overtime pay. Retailers, restaurants, insurance companies and others were getting hit with multimillion dollar lawsuits by workers claiming they were cheated out of overtime pay.

The Labor Department says the new rules provide clarity.

“Under the new rules, workers will know their overtime rights, employers will know their responsibilities and the department can more vigorously enforce these protections,” Labor Secretary Elaine



Senator Tom Harkin (C) holds a poster during a rally to protest the Bush administration's new regulations on overtime pay outside the Department of Labor, August 23, 2004 in Washington, DC. (Photo by Photocombe)

Chao said in a statement.

Labor unions say the new rules are intended to reduce employers' costs by cutting the number of workers who are eligible for overtime pay.

About 11.6 million workers receive overtime pay for working

more than 40 hours a week, the Labor Department has said. In all, about 115 million workers are covered by the overtime rules in the 1938 Fair Labor Standards Act.

Estimates of how many workers will lose their overtime eligibility vary from 107,000 to 6 million.

Calculations of workers who could become newly eligible range from very few to 1.3 million.

Changes are aimed at white-collar workers, and the Labor Department says manual laborers and other blue-collar workers won't be affected.

## Singapore Considers Casino

Singapore, August 23, *The Straits Times* – Whether to set up a casino here is one issue on which the Government can try to find a middle ground.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong raised the subject last night in his National Day Rally speech and asked: “Can we have a casino and still contain social problems?”

PM Lee acknowledged the “strong concerns” about the social implications of having a casino. In fact, the government said no to having a casino quite recently, when the idea was put forth to the Economic Review Committee, chaired by Lee himself.

“But the subject didn't die. And we have to reconsider because the argument comes up, the situation changes,” he said.

For instance, Singaporeans are already going to Batam casinos.

Also, tourist groups often want to visit casinos, and Singapore had to consider opening up this option if it can help increase the tourism traffic.

Thus, the Trade and Industry Ministry has submitted a new proposal for a casino to be built as part of an integrated resort with an entertainment center.

Urging Singaporeans not to reject the idea outright, he said restrictions could be set in place to prevent lower-income Singaporeans from patronizing casinos.

“We will not make it easy for people to go broke and ruin their families in Singapore.”

### Analyst's Take:

Generally speaking, with stringent supervision from the government, the tourist industry can benefit a lot from opening up legitimate casinos. The main reason for Singapore to consider a casino is to promote its own economic interests. For a certain country or district, where the necessary laws and regulations already exist, casinos may bring a great number of tourists with sizable foreign exchange, and thus boost the local economic growth. Take Chinese tourists for example, every year a large number of them, especially the wealthy ones, rush to casinos in Australia, or Las Vegas for gambling, spending a great deal money there. I think it is a sort of release partly, as there are no legitimate casinos in China. That is not to say, of course, that China should follow Singapore's footsteps, because the social environment varies from country to country.

Whether to set up a legitimate casino in a country or district is a complicated question depending on several factors. Besides a mature legal and regulatory system, the cultural traditions and quality of a society should be taken into account.

– Dai Xuefeng, senior economist from the Tourist Research Center of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (Wei Lixin)

## Arroyo Concedes Crisis

Manila, August 24, *The Straits Times* – Philippines President Gloria Arroyo kept faith with her economic ministers yesterday, asking them to stay in their posts for the time being as she acknowledged the country was in the midst of a fiscal crisis.

Arroyo, who won a fresh term in the May election, wants economic planning chief Romulo Neri, Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin and Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima to remain in the Cabinet, her spokesman Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye did not say whether Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, who is overseeing the crucial privatization of debt-laden state power firm National Power Corp. (Napcor), had also been asked to stay.

Arroyo reshuffled other Cabinet posts last week and had been expected to make some changes to her economic team as she tries to reduce a US\$3.5 billion annual budget deficit that economists say is unsustainable.

Budget Secretary Boncodin said the economic team would examine the idea, but added the economy was not technically in a fiscal crisis as international credit windows were still open.

## US Securities on the Up

Washington, August 16 (Dow Jones) – Foreigners recorded net purchases of US securities totaling \$71.8 billion in June, the first increase since January, according to the latest data from the Treasury Department.

Foreign net purchases of US securities in May were revised up to \$65.2 billion in May, from a previously reported \$56.4 billion.

Foreign net purchases of US Treasury notes and bonds totaled \$40.6 billion in June, up from a revised \$29.2 billion in May, the Treasury said.

Within the foreign purchases of Treasury notes and bonds, foreign official institutions purchased \$17.5 billion in June, up from purchases of \$14.6 billion in May.

Japan, the largest foreign holder of Treasury securities, boosted its holdings of Treasury notes and bonds to \$689.3 billion in June from \$668.1 billion in May.

China, the second largest holder of Treasury securities, slightly increased its holdings to \$164.8 billion in June from \$164.1 billion in May.

The UK, the third largest holder of Treasury securities, increased its holdings to \$127.6 billion in June from a revised \$126.4 billion in May.

### Local Report:

The latest data from the US Treasury Department gives an impression of increasing demand for US securities by foreign investors. However, along with the recent interest rate rises by the Fed, it is very likely that the US national debt will become a “hot potato”

### Local Report:

Why did Arroyo acknowledge the country was in the midst of a fiscal crisis? First, the financial state of the Philippines is indeed severe. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international rating organizations have warned the Philippine government about its ugly financial state. Some Philippines experts said if the financial state and enormous size of the debt can not be improved, the country may head for a debt crisis in the next few years similar to that experienced by Argentina in 2001.

Secondly, Arroyo needed to obtain support for the economic reform plan. Since Arroyo's reappointment this May, the government has proposed a package of financial plans, including imposing additional tax on fuel, tobacco and alcohol. But the proposals met widespread opposition. The declaration of a fiscal crisis urges public support for the government plans.

Finally, according to the law, once a country is in a fiscal crisis, the president is entitled to withhold the revenue normally distributed to local government, which accounts for 30% of the total revenue. This can cut down the budget deficit of the country.

– Xinhua News Agency, August 22 (Wei Lixin)

again. Although the US security market has long been the most important market that international investors cannot lose sight of, and is also the most essential tool for central banks of the other countries to conduct foreign exchange policy, the evidence shows that foreign investors' interest in buying US securities is gradually weakening.

First, signs of economic recovery in Japan are beginning to show. The Bank of Japan used to invest large sums of capital in the US security market to buy bonds in order to influence the exchange rate and boost competitiveness of Japanese export goods. But with the coming recovery this year, such intervention is gradually weakened. If the economic recovery continues for a long period, the enthusiasm of the Japanese government for buying US Securities is bound to wane further.

Moreover, as a consequence of the high international oil price, China will invest in energy sources rather than the security market. With all these factors taken into account, the market prospects for US securities, especially for the national debt, are somewhat bleak.

According to a report recently released by Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., if the purchase of foreign investment in the US security market continues to decrease, the US will find it hard to attain sufficient capital to finance the national current account deficit. This would threaten the position of the dollar in the international capital market.

– China Business Post, August 23 (Wei Lixin)

## Olympiad Drives Greece Debt to New High

Beijing, August 25 (Xinhua) – Greece pledged to redress its finances one day after official figures showed that Olympics-related costs pushed Greece's public debt, already one of Europe's biggest, to new depths.

On Monday, Greece's accounting office showed Greece's public debt for the first half of 2004 rising by 10 percent year-on-year to 195.7 billion euros – well above 100 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), *China Daily* reported.

Much of the increase is due to borrowing incurred between April and June for the timely completion of infrastructure for the Athens Olympics, accord-

ing to ministry officials.

But building-up of cash reserves and not-Olympics-related spending unaccounted for in previous government budgets also accounted for a big chunk of the rise, according to ministry officials.

According to latest official figures, which are still subject to revision, Greece' public deficit for 2003 exceeded the EU-prescribed limit of three percent of output and Brussels has launched an excessive deficit procedure against Greece.

The Athens Olympics could cost Greek taxpayers more than seven billion euros, according to the latest government estimates.

## SEC Fines Royal Dutch/Shell \$120 Million in Reserves Case

Washington, August 24, (AP) – A \$120-million fine levied on Royal Dutch/Shell Group resolves the energy company's part in a US inquiry into the overstatement of oil and gas reserves, but the role of individuals is still under investigation, securities regulators said Tuesday.

The Securities and Exchange Commission and the oil giant announced that the settlement, which Shell agreed to in principle last month, has been made formal.

Under the accord, the world's third-largest publicly

traded oil company also agreed to spend \$5 million on an internal compliance program.

Royal Dutch/Shell, an Anglo-Dutch company with a major presence in Canada, neither admitted to nor denied wrongdoing in the settlement but did agree to refrain from future violations of securities laws.

The company still faces an investigation by the Justice Department.

Shell also agreed to pay 17 million pounds, or about \$30 million, to settle related allegations by Britain's Financial Services Authority.

## German Unions Consider Minimum Wage

Frankfurt, August 25 (AFP) – German labor unions, previously deeply divided on the issue of a minimum wage, are prepared to discuss the introduction of a minimum wage on a sector-by-sector basis, a leading member of the DGB trade union federation said in a newspaper interview.

The giant IG Metall union for the electrical, engineering and metalworking sectors, and the chemicals and construction union IG BCE, which have previously rejected such an idea, had also signaled their readiness to follow this line,

DGB board member Heinz Putzhammer said.

However, unions were opposed to a single minimum wage for all sectors of industry, the trade unionist continued.

Putzhammer is responsible for wage policy within the DGB and is also a member of the working group set up by the ruling Social Democrat SPD party and unions to draw up a common position on the issue by the late autumn.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder recently said it was “justified” to relaunch the debate about a minimum wage.

## Home Depot to Pay \$5.5 Million in Case

New York, August 26, (Reuters) – Home Depot Inc., the world's largest home improvement retailer, agreed to pay \$5.5 million to settle discrimination claims brought by some workers at its Colorado stores, the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) said on Wednesday.

The EEOC said it had alleged in a lawsuit that in the stores, “there was a hostile work environment based on gender, race, and national origin, and that the company retaliated against employees who complained about discrimination.”

Calls to Home Depot and the EEOC were not immedi-

ately returned.

The voluntary settlement calls for Home Depot to pay \$3 million to resolve discrimination charges filed by 38 employees, and an additional \$2.5 million to set up a fund to provide relief to others who were harmed.

It also calls for Home Depot to train employees on anti-discrimination laws, appoint a coordinator to insure compliance with the settlement terms and oversee internal investigations of employee discrimination complaints, and to be monitored by the EEOC for 30 months.

The EEOC said Home Depot denied the allegations in the agency's complaint.

## Gimme an Aluminum Bottle Beer!

Pittsburgh, August 25 (AP) – How much would you pay for a bottle of beer that stays cold nearly an hour longer? Pittsburgh Brewing Co., maker of Iron City Beer, is asking an additional \$1 per case.

The brewery has partnered with Alcoa Inc., the world's largest aluminum maker, to produce aluminum bottles that keep beer colder for as much as 50 minutes longer than a glass bottle, Alcoa officials said.

About 20,000 cases of the new aluminum bottle beer are en route to as many as 28 states and should be on shelves this week, Alcoa and Pittsburgh Brewing said Tuesday.



Pittsburgh Brewing Company, makers of Iron City beer, unveiled a new aluminum beer bottle at a news conference Tuesday.

AP Photo

The bottles have three times the aluminum of a typical beer can. That gives them superior insulation, Alcoa spokesman Kevin Lowery said.

It's not the first time Alcoa has teamed up with the local brewery to put out a new product. In 1962, the two put the first pull-tab beer cans on shelves, freeing beer drinkers of the need to carry openers with them.



# Thousands Rush to Purchase Economic Apartments



People queued up to two days for numbers to buy a new home in the economic Sanhuan Xincheng development.  
Photo by Wang Zhenlong

By Chen Si

Patience paid off last Friday for over 2,000 people, who were rewarded for waiting up to two days and two nights in a long queue with numbers for purchasing new, economical homes in the Sanhuan Xincheng (Third Ring New Town) development.

Apartments in Sanhuan Xincheng, which stands at Fengyiqiao near the northwest corner of the Third Ring Road, sell for a rock-bottom 3,670 yuan per square meter.

The homes qualify as economic apartments, which are offered to families with total incomes of less than 60,000 yuan per year. Because developers of economic housing developments do not have to pay the government for land use, the apartments sell for very low prices, normally under 320,00 yuan.

The very low prices have driven massive demand for such housing, forcing developers to give potential buyers numbers for ordering their new apartments.

"Yesterday I got my family to bring me a reclining chair so I

could stay there all night and keep my place at the head of the line," pleaded prospective homebuyer Ms. Guo was quoted as saying by *Beijing Youth Daily* on Saturday.

Economic apartments were first erected in the 1990s in order to balance the rising prices of private housing and there were no clear rules for who could purchase such homes and who could not, Ge Wu, an official from Beijing's Land Resource Management Bureau, told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday. Today, however, the central government has stipulated that only those earning modest incomes can purchase the cut-rate homes.

To date, 36 economic apartment developments have been built in Beijing. "We know that the most important thing for a country is economic development, so governments still prefer higher-end apartments, because they are more expensive and therefore more profitable than economic apartments. That explains why so many people are willing to queue so long to purchase an economic apartment," Ge said.

## Courtyard Sales Disappointing

By Chen Si

The opening of sales of many *siheyuan*, or traditional courtyard homes, in Beijing received a lot of publicity this spring, but sales since have proven disappointing and only six percent of the available homes have been bought, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported Tuesday. High prices were likely to blame, the article said.

Siheyuan homes, squarish compounds built around central yards, are a distinct form of local architecture that dates back centuries to Beijing's founding as the national capital. Many have been torn down, however, to make way for tall, modern buildings and roads, and today there are only 3,000 courtyard homes left in the city, 658 of which have been put under local government protection.

The Beijing government released a new policy in April allowing anyone with enough money to purchase a siheyuan, a privilege previously restricted to native Beijingers only. That means any person, enterprise or organization, be they Chinese or foreign, can buy a courtyard home and enjoy preferential tax policies as an incentive to protect the historic structures.

Jing Yunjiao, general manager of the Wandecheng Real Estate Agency Company, told *Beijing Youth Daily* that his company had sold 30 siheyuan since April and another 200 clients were planning to make purchases.

But figures from several major local real estate companies indicate that only six percent of the siheyuan up for sale have found new owners. Most point the finger for the slow sales at very high prices, which average between 7,000 yuan and 10,000 yuan per square meter, some of the highest property prices in the city.

One new courtyard owner, who would not give his name, said he thought siheyuan should be expensive, as they were rare places that preserved the feel of old Beijing and tended to have prime locations.

Others, however, have complained that many siheyuan are in poor states of repair, meaning lots of money would have to be spent on reconstruction and refurbishing on top of the already high purchase prices. And many potential buyers have been turned away by the risks that unprotected courtyards could be razed at any time.

## Flying First Aid Still on the Ground

By Jiang Yongzhu

The roof of the Beijing Friendship Hospital's new building has been topped with a helicopter landing pad, though such emergency aircraft have yet to start plying the capital's skies.

The reinforced concrete pad, which stands next to an elevator door providing rapid access to the hospital's emergency room, opened on Monday.

However, an employee of local health care provider the Beijing First Aid Center (FAC) said that no specialized emergency helicopters were in use in Beijing, mostly because no suitable aircraft had been found. FAC had talked with the China Civil Aviation Administration (CAAC) to seek a proper type of helicopter for the service, but the two sides had yet to reach an agreement, the source said.

Airborne emergency service has already begun in Shanghai and Shenzhen, where the average cost of such a flight is 30,000 yuan.

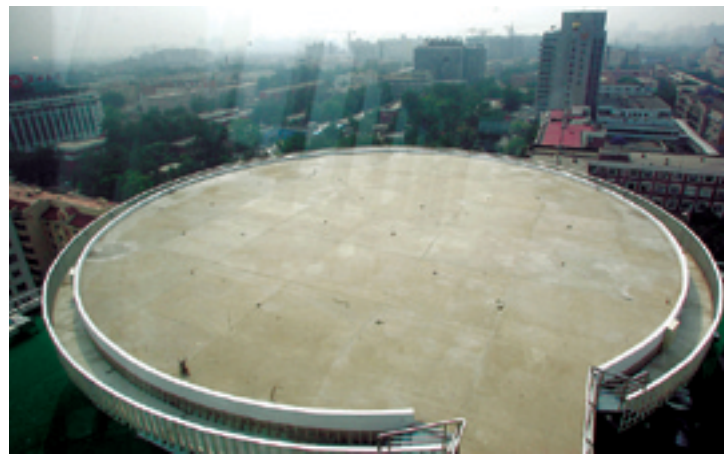
But getting the service off the ground in Beijing will be

more complicated, in no small part because of the city's complex flight regulations. Nearly the entire area within the Third Ring Road is a no-flight zone and airborne traffic needs permission from China's Central Army Headquarters to enter the area, a CAAC official said.

Further impediments to the launch of services are a lack of medical personnel qualified and trained to administer airborne care and the extremely high prices of flights, daunting to both potential clients and hospitals.

Yet many hospitals remain optimistic that airborne emergency service is the wave of the future. Besides Beijing Friendship Hospital, the Beijing Sino-Japan Friendship Hospital and Third Hospital attached to Peking University have also received permission to build landing pads.

Zhu Zonghan, head of the Beijing Public Health Bureau, has promised helicopter emergency services would start before 2008.



Beijing Friendship Hospital's new, empty helicopter pad

Photo by Wang Zhenlong

## Pitching Patient Purity

By Zhou Ying

Creating a website advocating young people abstain from sex until they are married has made 19-year-old Zhao Liping, a student at the Central University of Finance and Economics, a figure of widespread public attention.

But not everyone is convinced her website is a good idea, and some users have even speculated personal information may have been taken from the site and used by a company for unknown purposes.

Zhao and three of her friends set up the "Virginal Bloom" website (www.tdxy.net) on August 1. They received help from Yi Hongtai, a relative of Zhao's and manager of a real estate agency based in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province. The "Virginal Bloom" website links directly to the agency's homepage.

In an interview with *Beijing Youth Daily* last week, Zhao explained that she decided to set up the website after witnessing the suffering of some female

classmates as a result of engaging in pre-marital sex. "I just wanted to set up a platform to support girls and tell them to protect themselves," she said.

Just over 20 people have signed up on the website in support of the abstinence campaign, Zhao said. "How could it be a mistake to make a pledge of abstinence before marriage?" she asked.

Yet the web site has drawn criticism for originally requiring participants to provide their bust, waist and hip measurements. Some users have speculated in online discussions that their personal information may have been downloaded and used for less-than-virtuous purposes by Yi's company.

"I never really paid attention to that requirement because I had to focus on my studies. I am sure that Mr. Yi had only good intentions when he helped us set up the website," she said, noting the measurement section had been removed.

## Infertility Hospital Exposed as Fraud

By Zhou Ying

After earning a quick reputation through an aggressive blitz of television advertisements featuring famed actor Tang Guoqiang and pop star Xie Xiaodong, the Beijing Xinxing Hospital has seen its name dragged through the mud, as most of its advertised claims have been proven false.

Beijing Xinxing Hospital, a specialist in treating infertility, spent hundred of millions of yuan on ads that promised hope for couples unable to have children.

Yet the television spots' claims about the curative effects of the hospital's treatments were very exaggerated, *Oriental Outlook* reported on August 4. Adding insult to injury, the *Beijing News* revealed last Tuesday that the hospital's four head "doctors" had only graduated from a technical secondary school and did not hold medical degrees.

Those and other investigative reports have sparked public outcry

against the hospital and its boastful ads.

An investigation conducted by the Beijing Administration of Industry and Commerce in Haidian District earlier this month revealed that advertised claims that the hospital was the "largest," "most technically advanced" and "of the highest standard" were all unsubstantiated.

"I think everybody who appears in advertisements should be responsible to audiences," Xie Xiaodong told *Beijing Youth Daily* on Sunday.

Xie said he had serious doubts about appearing in the ads and only signed the contract after two years of careful consideration. "After I saw some materials about the hospital, including articles in many newspapers and official awards, I completely believed that the hospital did offer a valuable public service," he said.

The bureau is continuing its investigation, but the hospital remains open for business.

## Vengeful Murderer Put to Death

By Wang Fang

A 25-year-old man from Xinjiang who killed six people in Beijing was executed last Friday. The victims were all the perpetrators of a gang rape against Li Yijiang, who then went on a campaign of murderous vengeance.

Li killed the six men, all aged between 20 and 30, from late 2002 to early 2003, in all cases cutting off their genitals after killing them. Police linked the murders by discovering all the deceased were frequent visitors on the same pornographic website and then managed to follow that trail to Li, who was arrested in August last year.

In his police confession, Li told police he had a troubled past, including memories of his father abusing his men-

tally ill mother. He was the second-best student from his hometown when he graduated high school, earning him admission to a prominent Beijing university. It was there that he got hooked on the "Purple Boy" pornographic website.

To earn money to pay for long sessions at a local Internet cafe, Li took on two part-time restaurant jobs. His studies began to slip and after failing three courses, he was kicked out of the university.

Later, in 2002, he was beaten and raped by four men at a disco that was a hang-out for "Purple Boy" regulars. After recovering from the rape, Li went on a revenge-fueled killing spree, luring the rapists and their accomplices out and murdering them one by one.



Forty-five people were hurt when one bus smashed into a streetlamp.

Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

## Two Buses Collide Racing into Station

By Dong Nan

Nearly 50 passengers were injured when two buses on the 715 line crashed at the Sanlihe bus station in Chongwen District on Tuesday morning. The cause of the accident is still under investigation, however witnesses have told police that the two bus drivers were jockeying to be the first into the station when the collision occurred.

Sheng Guoqiang, who was standing on the sidewalk at the time of the crash, told police he saw a blue bus traveling down the right hand bus lane when another white bus came careening in from the left lane and tried to cut the blue bus off. The white bus turned too sharply, however, and plowed into the other buses' front end. The blue bus swerved out of the way and ran straight into a streetlight.

The 45 injured passengers were all in the blue bus. None were seriously wounded, but 15 were kept in hospital overnight for tests and observation.

"The blue bus pulled into Jieliu

station, the stop before Sanlihe, in front of the white one. Later, the white bus tried to overtake the blue one, and they drove next to each other at high speeds for a long time. Then the white one tried to move in front just before the Sanlihe stop," a passenger on the white bus surnamed Yin told the *Beijing Morning Post*. "I think they were racing to get to the station first to get the most passengers."

Chen Lianshuan, vice manager of Beijing Bus Company's safety department explained that the number of tickets sold per day directly affects drivers and conductors' wages.

Beijing Bus Company President Zhang Guoguang held a press conference Tuesday night, at which he pledged the company would cover the injured passengers' medical expenses. Though the accident was still under investigation, the two drivers involved, Song Huiquan and Zhang Baoli, had already been fired, Zhang said.

## Bomb Rocks Home of Corruption Fighter

By Chen Si

A bomb blast ripped through the home of the head of the Anti-Corruption Bureau in Xingtai city, Hebei Province last Thursday, severely injuring the official's wife.

A source from the Xingtai police speculated the bombing may have a connection with a former vice mayor of Xingtai, exposed as corrupt by bureau head Li Huisheng and now serving prison time, the *Beijing News* reported Tuesday.

Liu Haiyun, Li's wife, sustained severe injury to her eyes and had to have one of her legs amputated after the blast. The bomb blew a huge hole into the floor of their home, shattering all their windows and crushing the metal doors of neighboring apartments.

Witnesses said the suspected bomber, who wore a black t-shirt, emerged

from a taxi outside the apartment building, set the bomb in front of Li's door and then fled the scene. Later, when Liu opened the door to walk downstairs and buy breakfast, the bomb exploded. Li and the couple's child were saved by the thick walls that separated the bedroom from the rest of the apartment.

Police have launched a major investigation, offering a reward of 50,000 yuan to anyone who offers crucial clues.

For now, some law enforcers say a key suspect is the former vice mayor. In 2002, Li cracked a case in which local officials from the land resource bureau received 20 million yuan in bribes from the traffic bureau for the rights to use of some land, a matter involving the vice mayor, who was later arrested and incarcerated.



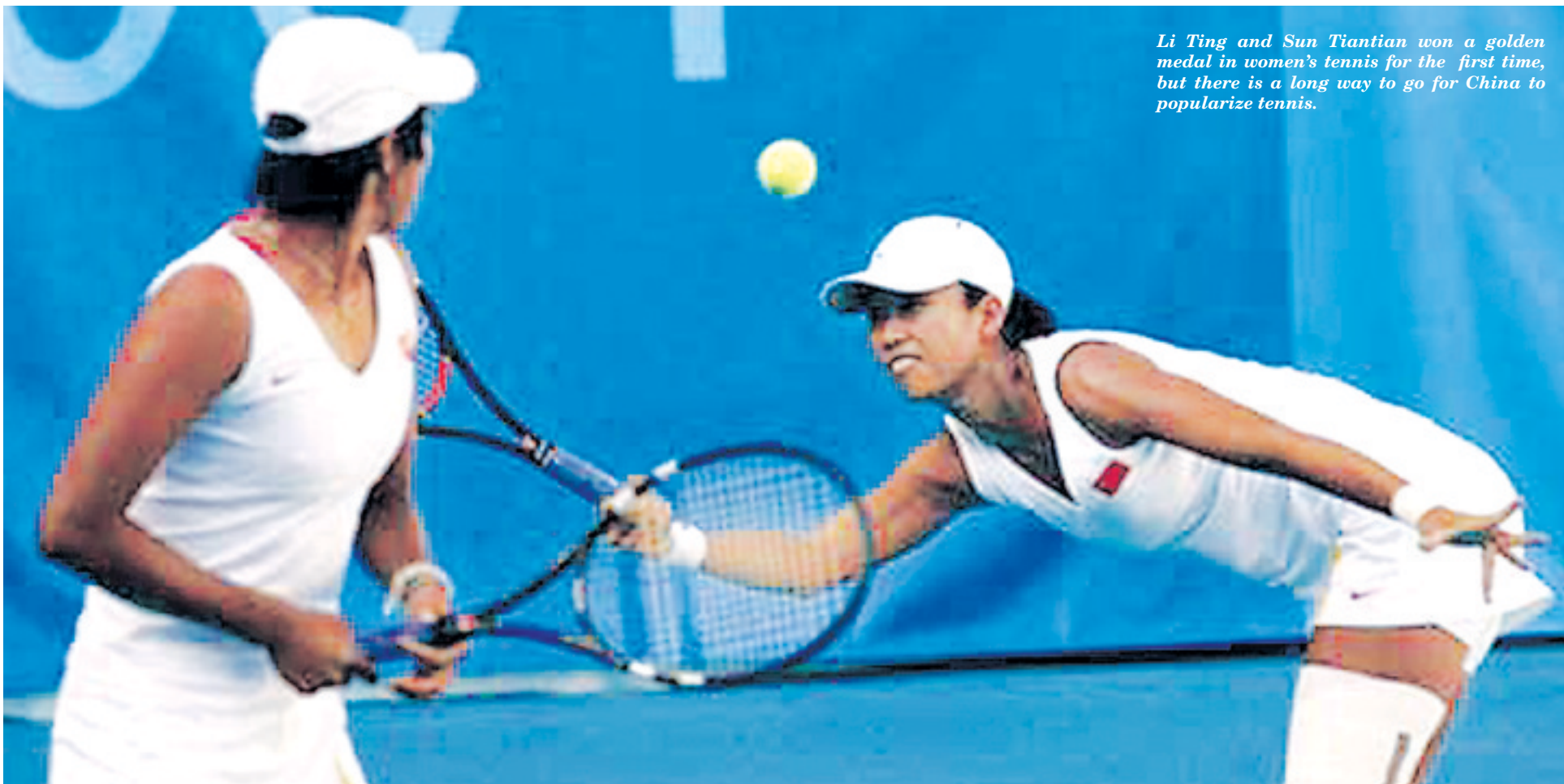
By Zhou Ying

As the Athens Olympics moves towards the closing ceremony, China stands proudly in second place in the medals table, with 24 gold medals, 16 silver and 12 bronze till 7 pm this Thursday. But perhaps it's a sigh of relief rather than cries of joy that will come from the successful Chinese athletes.

Liu Guoliang, the former main man in the Chinese ping-pong team, once complained in a CCTV program that it was quite hard to be an athlete in China. "We really felt ashamed if we could not win gold in the Olympic Games," he said. But it's an attitude that the authorities in China seem happy to cultivate. The current policy, known ironically as "The Whole Nation System", focuses attention on the gifted elite among China's athletic hopefuls and sets gold as the sole target for all participants, including athletes, coaches and government officials.

The Whole Nation System is intended to harness China's sporting resources in a practical way in order to achieve success at the highest level. Some people believe that this system is the only effective way at the moment to enhance the development of sports in China, even if it might hinder future development.

Some hold that the real charm of the sports exists in the process of competition, that the spirit and magnanimity of the participants in the games are more important than the garlands and applause behind the medals. Should the Whole Nation System be changed?



Li Ting and Sun Tiantian won a golden medal in women's tennis for the first time, but there is a long way to go for China to popularize tennis.

## All About Winning?

**Kong Qingpeng, deputy general secretary of the Chinese Olympic Delegation**

I think the essential element of sporting competition is a country's economic strength. As a developing country, it is impossible for China to spend large amounts of money in developing sports. Therefore, our areas of strength should get priority, such as ping-pong,



Sports equipment for the public is poor in many communities

Photo by Photocom

gymnastics, and swimming. That requires positive participation and support from local governments.

To improve the level of our sports, we should make perfect preparations. Every step should be successful, from selecting the athletes to giving them years of training. The Olympic Games is a matter concerning the glory of nation, so we should try our best

to fulfill this task.

The reason why we succeeded in the Athens Olympics was that the work between the General Administration of Sports and the local related departments was clearly divided. We had a wonderful cooperation. So the result of this Olympics can prove that our system is effective.

**Huang Yubin, Head Coach of the Chinese Gymnastics Team**

In order to maintain the dominant role of the Chinese Gymnastics Team in the 2008 Olympics, we should keep up The Whole Nation System, because gymnastics is a kind of sport which is hard to popularize among the public. Therefore I think only The Whole Nation System can ensure that the few people with real ability in the field of gymnastics can fully exert their potential.

The long-term system is in accordance with the development of the Chinese economy and politics. I think we should continue to make full use of its advantages, paving the way for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

**Zhong Buingshu, vice-principal of Beijing Sport University**

The key to this matter is to set up a more scientific and humanistic system concerning the training of the athletes.

In China, more than 90 percent of the athletes began their sports career when they were youngsters. They have to spend most of their time training, so they have little time or energy to fulfill the rest of their education. In America, though, there are more than 360,000 athletes with university degrees.

Moreover, such intense training increases the risk of injury. According to the General Administration of Sport, all the members of the Chinese badminton team have suffered injuries. In total, 42 of our athletes are suffering from 83 different injuries. These injuries may cause them to tire of the training, and quit their sports career as soon as they attain certain achievements.

Athletes in China are like falling stars. It is really a waste of resources.

**Li Liyan, member of the scientific research institute of the General Administration of Sport**

The government spares no efforts to develop the careers of top athletes, but by contrast, the development of mass sports is way behind.

Our investigation showed that 46 percent of people who take exercise regularly were aged from 71 to 75 years old. Moreover, most people choose not to take exercise as long as they are in healthy condition.

There are more than 61,000 gymnasiums in China. However, more than 40 percent of ordinary people choose to take exercise in the streets. Those gymnasiums are not being fully used by the public.

Therefore, I think sport should be shifted from its current role as a special political tool towards entertainment for the public.

**Shu Guillin, freelance writer**

I have found that most gymnastics athletes look alike. Some coaches explained to me that it is because that they were selected according to one standard, such as the same age, bodily form and stature.

Compared with all the great powers in gymnastics, only China adopts anything like the Whole Nation System.

Taking the Japanese team for example, all the athletes were called together just before the Olympic Games started. They all do their own business during the rest of the time.

I think our Whole Nation System can be a sword with two edges. The advantages of the system are that it can manage resources for a particular task; the disadvantage is that it may obliterate the personality of the athletes. They attach such importance to winning gold that they lack other skills for living.

Most athletes in China will suffer psychological problems before major competitions. I think this must have something to do with our current system. How can they relax when shouldering such pressure to win the gold medal before departing?

**Ferry, Van de Pavert, a doctor from Holland**

About the Chinese Sports-system, whatever you do at the moment the Olympic results for China are fantastic. The Whole Nation System seems to work as far as practical results are concerned.

So far China almost leads the world in results. The games in Greece are a good test before the next games in Beijing. In Greece, China can test how other countries operate. However, it should only be just to know how others work to compare and understand but not to apply as it only works for that particular country.

I have visited the Beijing University of Physical Education and I have been very much impressed by the structure you already work with so far, so when China adds its cultural heritage in managing energies you get a truly Chinese sport culture.

Sportsmen should also socially have sympathy towards other countries' systems and respect the way they work very much, but stick to your own system, your own roots where the utmost results come from. The individual sportsman should enjoy the whole process from the beginning till the end.

## Are China's SOEs Being Looted?

By Sun Yongjian/Dong Nan

Earlier this month, Lang Xianping, a professor from Chinese University of Hong Kong accused Gu Chujun, the president of Greencool group, a large domestic refrigerator company, of organizing an underhand management buy-out (MBO), in order to get his hands on state-owned assets. Gu immediately rejected the charge and filed a lawsuit against Lang last Monday, accusing him of slander.

An MBO is when the staff of a listed company purchase the company's assets and thereby become its owners. Lang argues that in China it is now being widely abused, and that people are using it to exploit state-owned assets.

"The biggest problem confronted by state-owned enterprises at present in China is the shortage of trustworthy professional managers," said Lang. "China doesn't yet have a correct understanding of the essence of an MBO," he added.

This month, Lang has issued a series of criticisms of big state-owned enterprises such as Haier, TCL and Kelong. He asserted that their state-appointed managers are taking possession of these firms through unauthorized expansion of personal stock ownership.

**Zhen Shiyu, an economics journalist with Beijing Star Daily**

The MBO system was launched by the Chinese authorities from the end of 2002. It allows the state-owned assets of a listed company to be purchased by the internal management staff.

Many researchers and entrepreneurs were optimistic about MBOs, because they believed it could be a new channel for private capital to participate in the reform of state-owned enterprises, and that it could energize the economy.

But just half a year later, by March 2003, the China Ministry of Finance (CMOF) announced a temporary suspension of MBOs in China, because a huge amount of state-owned assets had been carved up and taken over by some purchasers' speculative activities.

MBOs immediately became notorious.

**Lang Xianping, professor of finance from Chinese University of Hong Kong**

It has become common for state-owned assets to be lost since the implementation of the MBO system. We should be on our guard against the "legal" exploiting of state-owned assets by entrepreneurs and the leaders of some state-owned enterprises. It's similar to the privatization process of Russia more than ten years ago.

Although the China Ministry of Finance (CMOF) announced a suspension of MBOs in March last year, underground MBOs have been carried out in some domestic enterprises such as Greencool, as well as TCL group and Haier as well. In these cases, state assets have been "turned" into private property.

Gu Chujun, the president of Greencool, has purchased four state-owned enterprises including Kelong, Meiling, Asia Star Bus and ST Xiangzhou with a claimed investment of 4.1 billion yuan, but only 300 million yuan was invested in fact.

At first, Gu always offered a lower purchasing price on the basis that the enterprises were making great losses. But this was partly engineered by Gu, who deliberately increased the daily running expenses of the enterprises.

For example, the running costs of Greencool were only 10 percent of its turnover before Gu arrived, but the figure increased to 20 percent after Gu became chairman. Under these circumstances, of course huge losses were unavoidable.

Gu was always able to become chairman of a company before purchasing it. For instance, he became chairman of Kelong in November 2001 and had taken over the company by May 2002. It was the same with his purchase of Meiling, Asia Star and St Xiangzhou.

As for Haier Group, the visible and invisible assets in the company held by the staff amount to 65 billion yuan, while the company's global sales income in 2003 was only 80.6 billion yuan. Isn't this an indirect MBO?



Lang Xianping Photo by Photocom



Gu Chujun

**Zhang Junkuo, president of the Market Economy Research Institute of the Development and Research Center of the State Council**

The MBO system has a promising future in China. It offers many advantages for state-owned enterprises, because the interior managements have a deeper understanding than outside investors about how the enterprise works. Meanwhile, by means of MBO, the enthusiasm of the staff can be increased.

But at present, we can't deny that the positive effect of MBOs is being constrained because it is too easy for state-owned assets to be carved up by the inner management, due to the lack of legal supervision and regulation.

It should be stressed that the MBO system launched in China is quite different from that in some western countries, where what is purchased by the interior management is generally not the state-owned assets but the companies' listed assets; bank loans and the companies' profits are generally beyond the reach of private buyers.

As an effective and widely-used means of reorganization,

MBOs should not be simply excluded or forbidden. According to the current policy, state shares of SMEs could still be purchased by domestic or overseas investors. If the interior management is able to offer more reliable methods in improving performance after reorganization and can offer a higher purchasing price, why should they not be qualified to buy? So the key is establish an effective supervision system, so as to ensure fairness and transparency of the MBO process and to create a level playing field for both insiders and outsiders.

**Gu Chujun**

Lang should retract the accusations he has made on websites such as sina.com, the website of the Eastern Morning Post as well as the website of Hong Kong Business News. Otherwise, every measure necessary, including legal ones, will be used to protect my name.

**Response from Haier**

Lang's accusation is based on the idea that Haier is a state-owned enterprise, but that actually isn't the case. Haier hasn't committed any activities that violate the law.

**Li Ye, columnist of Securities Times**

We have to be cautious about the academic speculation as Lang's argument has exceeded its academic scope and entered the market realm, causing harm to the enterprises he has mentioned. Lang's behavior is intemperate and can't be regarded as responsible towards the enterprises.

**Deng Yuwen, sina.com netizen**

Although some of what Lang says sounds too emotional, he has reminded us of some serious matters which we should not neglect. The loss of state-owned assets during the process of economic reform is very serious. The managers have acquired the largest profits during MBOs, but the staff and investors have suffered due to the unfair distribution of assets.

Who can supervise the managements during the reform? In my opinion, the media and economists play a key role because they are able to dig up problems during the very complicated capital operation process. Professor Lang is an example of this.



By Dong Nan

It is no longer surprising to see expensive car brands such as BMW, Benz and Cadillac on Beijing's streets. Swatch outlets and Haagen-Dazs ice cream shops are pulling in more and more clientele, while men in Hugo Boss suits and young women in Prada skirts are becoming common on Chinese city streets as well.

Along with the development of the economy, more and more Chinese rich people are willing to spend their money on luxury items. Earlier this year, Jacques Franck Dossin, an analyst with the Goldman Sachs Group, claimed that China would be the world's fastest growing luxury market over the next 10 years, by the end of which it will have become the world's second largest luxury market. He also said that last year the market for luxury items in China was worth around \$2 billion, representing the fastest growth rate for this sector anywhere in the world.

#### Foreign brands swarm into China

On June 10, the first day of the 2004 Beijing International Automobile Exhibition, a Bentley Mulliner 728 costing 9.88 million yuan, was sold to a Chinese man. Over the next six days at the exhibition, Bentley sold three more automobiles for similarly enormous prices.

This sales triumph was not at all that surprising for Zheng Biao, president of Bentley, China. Since 2002 when it entered the Chinese market, 250 Bentley cars have been sold here, far more than initial expectations.

At the exhibition in June, around 30 luxurious automobiles costing more than a million yuan each were sold.

Not just cars, luxury goods companies from across the spectrum are piling into China. Haagen-Dazs will shortly open ten more stores in China, following the ten new branches it set up in 2003; Louis Vuitton opened four new branches in China this year and is to launch two to three each year in the future, and Cartier hopes to expand its number of outlets from three to 15 in the next three years.

"In the future, to lose the

market in China will be the same as losing the whole world," said Song Weiqun, Chinese marketing manager of General Mills, the owner of Haagen-Dazs. He said that since 1996 when Haagen-Dazs entered the Chinese market, its sales have kept a consistent growth rate of 40%.

China is not seen merely as a big market; foreign brands are equally eager to avail themselves of low labor costs here, setting up their own local joint ventures and manufacturing plants. Numerous expensive brands of shoes, clothing and furniture are made in China, for export as well as domestic consumption. BMW has begun assembling some of its latest models in China. Mercedes and Cadillac are preparing to do the same thing.

On July 3, a yacht factory owned by Kingship Marine, a renowned Hong Kong yacht company, opened in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province.

Though many Chinese people



Bentley Mulliner 728 at the 2004 Beijing International Automobile Exhibition



Louis Vuitton's new branch in Shanghai opened this June

Photo by Photocom



Chanel No.5 is the favorite luxury item for many young women

are not familiar with sailing, Roger Liang, the owner of the factory, predicted that in ten years there would be a large market in China for the kind of 33-meter yachts that Kingship builds to order in Zhongshan.

#### Middle class aspiration

To Ms. Gao, who works for an advertising company in Shanghai, a "luxury item" means a white Ferragamo bag, with a price of 5,700 yuan. Before she made up her mind to buy it, she had to save up for months.

"I graduated from college last year, and my salary is less than 4,000 yuan a month. For the

bag, I did not buy any clothes for two months, and ate the cheapest food as lunch every day," she said.

But Gao thought it was worthwhile anyway. "In large companies like ours, people pay a lot of attention to brands and your tastes, especially women from Hong Kong. They notice the brands of your bag and your shoes even before they know your name. Besides, compared with expensive and fashionable suits, a nice bag will last a long time. I think it is a good bargain."

"I do not know what could be called 'luxury items,'" Viviane Wu, a Beijinger who works in a French company, with wages of 5,000 to 6,000 yuan a month, told *Beijing Today*. "If I mention things such as a Bentley, of course I could not afford that. The most luxurious thing I buy frequently is Chanel No.5. I have a special feeling for perfumes; they make me feel comfortable and confident."

Sun Zhe, a columnist for *Fashion* magazine, feels many women who buy luxury products mainly wish to show others that they are rich. Of course, many men have the same complex.

Economist Yue Zheng from the accounting firm Price Waterhouse Coopers, pointed out that in China, most luxury

product consumers are people who are younger than 40 years old, and they mainly focus on things such as perfumes, clothes or watches. But in developed Western countries, "luxury items" means houses, fancy cars and travel, and consumers who can afford these things are mainly from 40 to 70 years old.

"This shows the different living styles in different cultures, and shows that Chinese people are not as rich," he said. He also said he thought that Chinese luxury consumers are not so mature and were inclined to follow fashion and purchase name brands blindly.

According to Yang Qingshan, president of the Chinese Name Brands Association, people of the "middle class", with income from 75,000 to 100,000 yuan every year, were the most promising group of consumers, even if their focus is on the relatively affordable luxury items. According to the estimates of BNP Paribas Peregrine, a France-based consulting group, the numbers of this group of people will be 100 million by the year 2010.

#### Ill gotten gains?

In recent years, news stories have continuously emerged about people mentioned in the various rich lists having been

involved in dubious practises.

The list includes many renowned rich people, such as Lai Changxing, Li Shen, Guo Hongqi, Tan Minglin and Yang Xiuzhu, who have been caught up in allegations of smuggling, bribery, tax evasion and financial crimes.

"The sources of many rich people's fortunes in China are doubtful," said Zhao Xiao, an economist at Beijing University in one of his articles published in *International Herald Leader*. "Many spend their money on luxury items just to show off, and that is sure to sharpen the conflict between poor and rich people."

This year, many experts have suggested the country should levy taxes on luxury goods.

"Not only luxury commodities, but entertainments such as golf, bowling and saunas should be taxed as well," said Zhu Qing, Dean of the Finance and Economics College of Renmin University to *Beijing News* earlier this month.

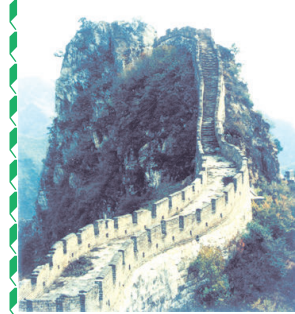
However, according to Gao Peiyong, vice president of the Finance and Economics Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, it is impossible for the Chinese government to levy luxury consumption tax this year.

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# Fake Cancer “Cure” Exposed

By Wang Fang

A hospital in Beijing selling a herbal concoction purporting to offer a cure for cancer was exposed by an investigation team from CCTV this week.

Adverts for the “Wu Hu (Five Tigers) Decoction for Cancer” had been published for months in local media around China by Beijing Qiankun Hospital and had attracted the attention of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce which began a crackdown on adverts for phony remedies in June.

## Diagnosis without seeing the patients

A member of staff from Beijing Qiankun Hospital told CCTV it did not matter whether the cancer patients came to see the doctor or not. As long as they can bring some diagnosis from another hospital, they can take get the Wu Hu Decoction for Cancer. The patients can even fax their information to the hospital and get the medicine in the mail.

In the dispensary, there were boxes of the treatment ready to be sent out to

**“Most doctors in the hospital do not have any certificates and are not registered with relevant departments. They’re just concerned with selling the medication to patients.”**

room, another “inventor” of the decoction, Doctor Zhang, was dealing with an ovarian cancer patient.

Mr. Chen, who claimed that he used to work in Beijing Qiankun Hospital, told *Beijing Youth Daily*, “Most doctors in the hospital do not have any certificates and are not registered with relevant departments. They’re just concerned with selling the medication to patients.”

## Interviewing the “dead” patients

Mr. Cui and his wife are from Tianjin and are both cancer patients. After reading the advert for Wu Hu Decoction for Cancer, they bought a package of it from the affiliated hospital of Beijing Qiankun Hospital in Tianjin. A later medical check found no improvement in their condition; moreover, Cui’s wife felt worse than before.

Mr. Li from Jixian County in Tianjin went to Beijing Qiankun Hospital with his wife and bought the decoction for a period of treatment, hoping that he could recover as the advert suggested. Since he and his family trusted the medicine, he stopped the other treatments he had been taking. However, now Mr. Li is gravely ill and has to rely on morphine to ease the pain.

The investigation team also went to Hebei, Tianjin and Heilongjiang to interview some of the patients mentioned in the advert brochure distributed by Beijing Qiankun Hospital. The advert says these patients all recovered after taking the medicine.

A lady named Zhang Qingyun from Nangang District of Harbin is in the brochure. It says that she had breast cancer and then the cancer moved to her lymphatic system and lungs. However, after taking Wu Hu Decoction for Cancers for less than a half period of treatment, the tumor became smaller and after three periods of treatment, it disappeared completely. With the help of the police in Nangang District, the investigation team found two women named Zhang Qingyun matching the details of the woman in the advert. It turned out neither of them had ever taken the Wu Hu Decoction.

Jinan Tongji Hospital is the affiliated hospital of Beijing Qiankun Hos-

pital mentioned in the brochure. The photo of a cancer patient, Sun Fuyuan, who was also described as having recovered after taking Wu Hu Decoction for Cancer, was displayed on the wall of the hospital. According to one of the doctors, Sun Fuyuan had esophagus cancer but recovered by taking the treatment. The doctor added that Sun Fuyuan still came to the hospital once a month from Zhangjiakou in Hebei Province to buy the decoction. The investigation in Zhangjiakou, however, found that Sun Fuyuan had already passed away two months earlier. Zhang Guilan, vice director of the residents’ committee to which Sun Fuyuan belonged, said Sun’s wife once told her that a hospital selling pharmaceuticals had invited them to visit Beijing for free.

## Fake advert approval number

The investigation team found out that Beijing Qiankun Hospital has affiliated hospitals in Tianjin, Zhengzhou, Jinan, Guangzhou and Nanjing. Some adverts published by these hospitals do not have the required advert approval number. Some have the approval number 158. However, according to Wang Qingjiang, chief of the advert section of Fengtai Bureau of the Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce, this approval number was not issued to Beijing Qiankun Hospital but another clinic in Beijing and the corresponding document showed in the advert was fake.

Wang Peizhang, chief of the supervision section of the advert watch and control department of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce, said that the advert from Beijing Qiankun Hospital breached the law in various aspects. First, the law stipulates that it is prohibited to publish adverts relating to cancer treatments. Second, the pharmaceuticals in this advert had not been checked and approved by the drug supervision department. Third, the advert is contrary to the provision of the present medical advert management regulation in that it uses the images of doctors, patients and experts. Finally, the advert exaggerates the effects of the decoction.

## A single medication cannot cure cancer

Chinese herbs can sometimes reduce the recurrence of cancers and the size of the tumor to a certain degree, according to doctor Lin Hongsheng, chief of the tumor section of Guang’anmen Hospital, the affiliated hospital of the China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine. However, according to clinical and experimental observation, it cannot be said that a single medication or method of treatment can cure cancer.

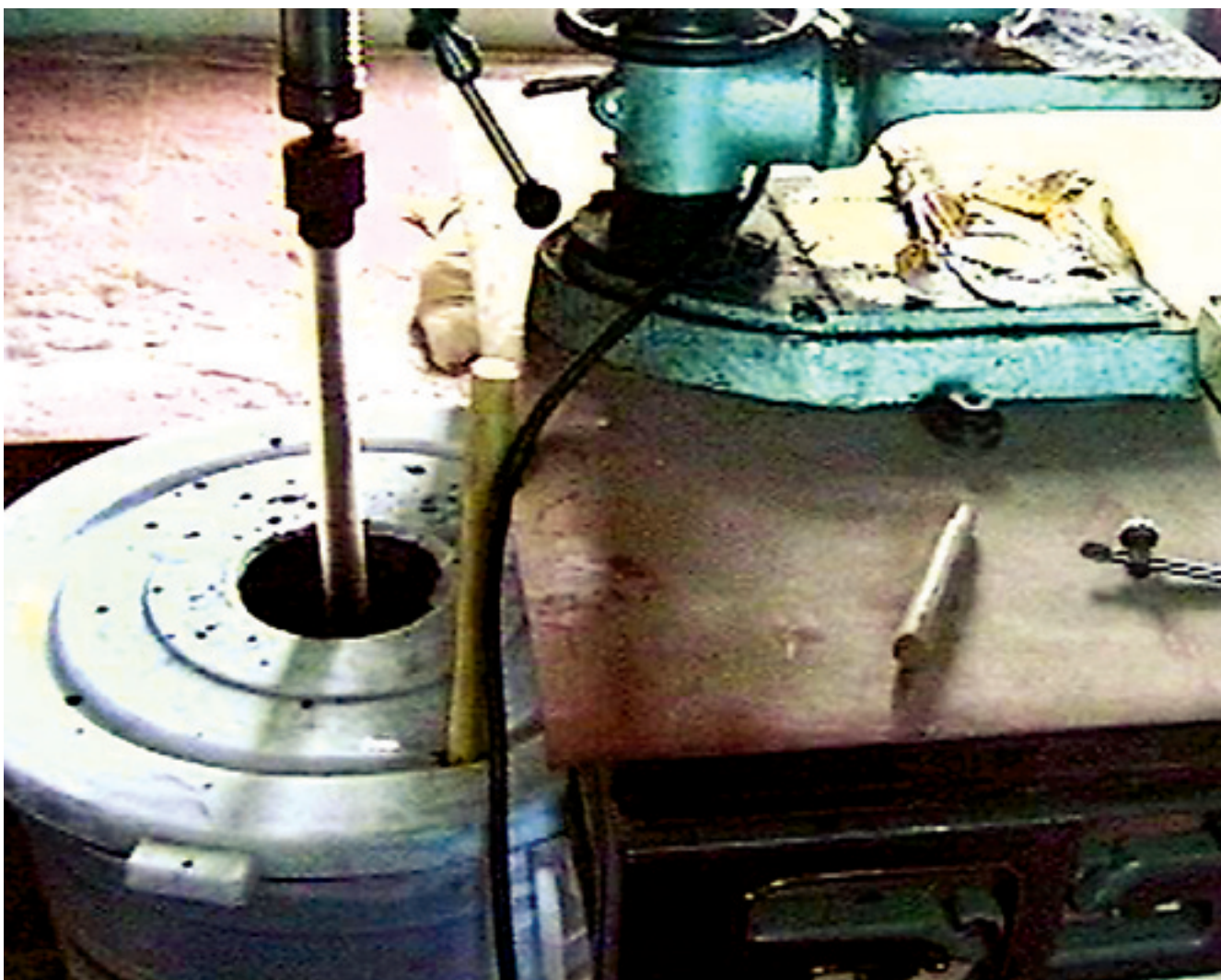
But if the materials in the decoction sold by the hospital are fake, it could harm the health of patients. Mr. Chen, who worked in Beijing Qiankun Hospital, also revealed that the herbs for preparing Wu Hu Decoction for Cancer were either fake or inferior ones. “These herbs were bought from an illegal pharmaceutical businessman in Anguo, Hebei Province,” he said. He also said the herbs were processed again in the hospital. For example, the hospital would add certain cheap ingredients to save cost. However, the staff of the hospital said they bought the materials from the same company as the well-known Chinese herbal store Tongrentang.

## Stop this illegal advert

The State Administration for Industry and Commerce has issued a notice saying it will investigate the advert for Wu Hu Decoction for Cancer in Beijing, Tianjin, Henan, Hainan and the other provinces it has been sold in. It also ordered the local media to stop publishing and broadcasting the advert. The advert agency and the media may also face investigation and punishment from the local administrations for industry and commerce.

Cheng Guangliang, the director of Beijing Qiankun Hospital, confessed to CCTV, “The effects of the advert were exaggerated.”

(Source: CCTV)



Tools of the drug production line

## Stay Off the Special

# K, Kids



Zhu Huaping

The Ketamine produced by Zhu Huaping and his friends was of astonishingly high purity. What surprised the police was that Zhu worked out how to produce it on his own.



By Jiang Yongzhu

A new crackdown on drugs was announced by the Ministry of Public Security last week, and this time it’s going to focus on the “club drugs” circulating at entertainment venues. The announcement may have been partly inspired by a drug bust in Jiangsu Province in June, where large quantities of the party drug Ketamine, also known as “Special K”, were found. It was the largest bust in China in two years, and the scale and audacity of the operation shocked the whole country.

## Over a hundred kilos

Ketamine is an anesthetic that is perfectly legal for medical use. But it’s become popular around the world as a party drug because small quantities can have hallucinogenic effects. Larger quantities can be lethal.

According to the police in Jiangsu Province, drug producers have been caught before while trying to buy Ketamine from legal factories producing it. This time, the suspects had set up their own production line to create huge quantities of the drug. The plant was in Tangdian village in Taizhou, Jiangsu, and as well as the various machines in the building, police found 113 kilograms of Ketamine. From June 20 to July 6, six suspects were arrested, including the leader, Zhu Huaping.

## Apt student

The Ketamine produced by Zhu Huaping and his friends was of astonishingly high purity. What surprised the police was that Zhu worked out how to produce it on his own. How could someone who hadn’t even made it through middle school grasp such complicated chemical technology? The police told CCTV that Zhu Huaping had revealed his methods in his confession.

After Zhu made up his mind to produce Special K, he began to conduct experiments, but all of them were unsuccessful. So he went to the local library, hoping to learn chemistry by himself. In April this year, Zhu found an article that introduced the production of Ketamine.

He then bought 150 kilograms of raw materials for production of the drug from a store in Xuzhou, Jiangsu Province. This was fairly easy, since there is no regulation of the trade of this raw material. After that, he began his experiments again, along with a friend who used to work in a chemical factory.

In June this year, seven months after Zhu started his plan, he had finally found an effective way to produce Ketamine. Zhu was able to raise 200,000 yuan and he spent it all on more raw materials. The materials cost 1,600 yuan per kilogram. After the machining process, the sale price would rise to 55,000 yuan per kilo, 34 times the initial cost. When the drug reaches the hands of the users, the price of one kilogram is as high as

200,000 yuan, 125 times the original cost; so the potential value of Zhu’s Special K would be nearly 25 million yuan.

## Stakeout begins

The investigation of Zhu’s plant started after the Taizhou police received a tip off. A team was sent to Gaoting village where the suspect plant was, to search for evidence. “The suspects were very careful,” one of the policemen told CCTV. “They chose a good place to hide from attention.”

The building was by a river and three sides of it were next to water. The other side was on a street that had very few people passing by. “Any strangers who hung around this place would soon arouse their attention,” said the policeman. All the windows of the plant were covered with curtains.

During the daytime, the police scouts pretended to be fishing, while at night they hid among the reeds. The police gradually figured out the production schedule, but the real breakthrough came when they managed to get their hands on some of the drug being produced. Sure enough, the analysis identified it as Ketamine.

Unfortunately, just as the police were ready to move in, the suspects left the plant. Due to the terrible smell coming from the production line, the owner of the building ordered Zhu and his friends to move out. So they moved their equipment from Taizhou to Jiangyan. This time, the police scouts pretended to be learners from a local driving school, practicing in the area.

On June 20, five days the investigation, police discovered that Zhu was to make a delivery of some of his products. It was time to move.

When the police busted the plant, two of the machines were still in operation. Three suspects, Zhu Huaping, Sun Aihong and Zhang Zhenzu were caught at the plant. On June 21, another two suspects, Zhang Guoding and Zhui Jihua, were arrested when they came back from Wenzhou. On June 6, another member of the gang, Cai Wenzhu, was caught by police in Shenzhen.

## New wave

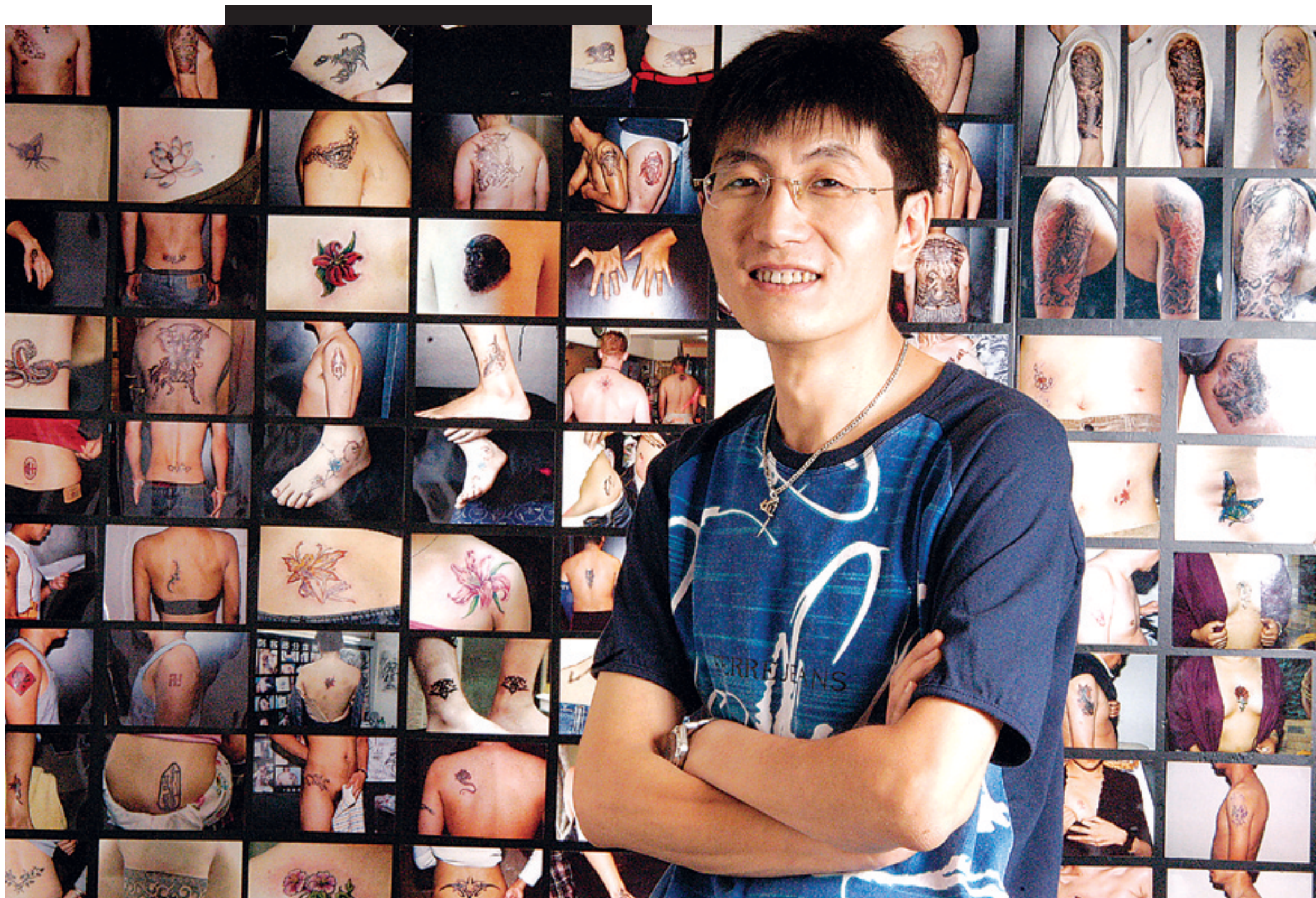
According to the police, most of the Special K in China comes from Holland. Around 1999, the drug entered China through Japan, Hong Kong or Thailand to China’s coastal cities, and then was transported elsewhere in the country. However, in recent years direct production and trade of Ketamine has become more common inside China.

The Taizhou case was the biggest drug bust since a case in Nanjing in 2002. The police said the scale of private drug production was getting larger. “How to tackle the new types of drug is a subject we have to face directly,” said a policeman in Taizhou.

Until now, China doesn’t have any exact laws for what punishment should be given to the producers and dealers of the new type of drugs.

(Source: CCTV)





By Wang Yao

Many of his friends were incredulous when Yang Peng gave up a good job working for the Beijing government to pursue his dream of being a tattoo artist. But despite the impression some may have of his art, Yang has built a new career for himself and is busily reshaping people's attitudes. "I must be the pioneer, just like Cui Jian in rock music!" he says.

#### New start

Yang was born in an ordinary family in Heilongjiang. He majored in chemistry at Harbin University of Science, and found some part-time jobs while he was there. His ability as a coordinator and organizer enabled him to gain a job working for the municipal government in Beijing. It was quite a feather in the cap for the new graduate to find such a stable job, and most of his classmates envied his good fortune. Yang himself felt relaxed about his work. But before long he started to wish for something more challenging.

On a business trip to America in 1998, Yang noticed that many people there had beautiful tattoos. The colors and exquisite patterns lit a fire in his heart. "In the Tang Dynasty, tattoos were popular in China," he says. "They were black and blue, and distinguished social status and religion. But later, tattoos were criticized as a roguish culture. And in films today, the bad guys always have tattoos. In fact, tattoos are just a way of showing one's mind and taste. It's a kind of expression on skin."

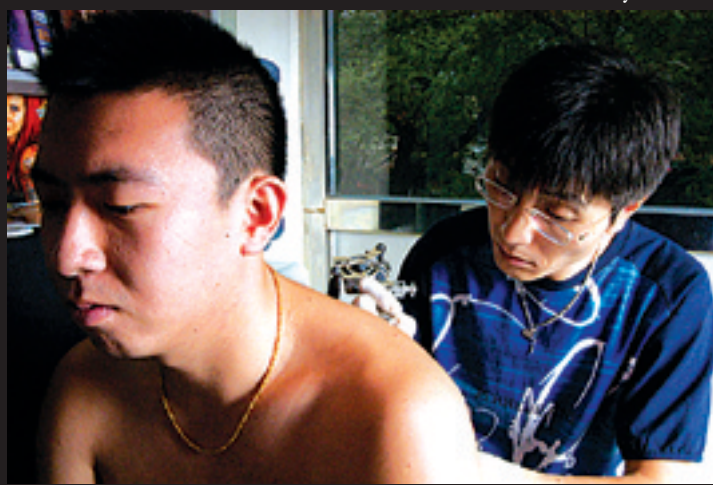
Yang resigned as soon as he returned to China, determined to make a new start, and patiently learned the skills of tattooing. In order to put his new skills into practice, Yang's brother-in-law agreed to be his first model. Yang admits it was probably the worst tattoo he's ever done.

He accumulated his skills and experience gradually. For a beginner without any background in art, it was a great challenge to his initial enthusiasm. Beyond the

## Come in to My Parlour



Photo provided by Yang Peng



Photos by Bao Wei

difficulty in skills, tools were another problem. They all had to be imported from abroad but Yang's poor English made this difficult to organize. Fortunately, Yang had a former classmate who worked in Motorola who was able to help him write a letter to buy the machines he needed.

#### Pressure from friends

Overcoming his obstacles in skills and tools, another pressure was the bias among his friends and former classmates. Though they had open minds about many things, some had very negative opinions about tattoos. "Some of my friends wondered, since I had received higher education, why did I give up a decent job in the government? Why did I choose this indecent job instead? They considered it a risk. They even thought there was something wrong with my brain."

One day, Yang met one of his friends who had been out of touch for quite a long time. He was excited to know his friend was in Beijing, so he invited him to dinner. They had a good time at first, but when they talked about each other's jobs, his friend showed surprise and disappointment on hearing about Yang becoming a tattoo artist. In his mind, there was something dirty and bad about it. His negative attitude was obvious from his tone and comments. "That hurt, and did shake my confidence in what I was doing for a while," says Yang.

Experiences like this sometimes made Yang confused. "Why do people have such strong discrimination against tattoos? Should I have given up my position in the government?" he asked himself. However, he loved what he was doing and he thought bravely that the art needed a genuine pioneer to improve the quality of Chinese tattoos, and also to prove to his friends and former classmates that he had made the right choice.

#### Not about profit

Over the last six years, Yang has done his best to build a positive image for tattoo art. Money is not his final goal. What he wants is a bright future for the art in China. "I

don't do a tattoo for just anyone. Some of the clients are not prepared for it," he says.

One year ago, a fashionable boy came to Yang's studio. He asked for tattoos on his arms. Yang asked him how old he was. The boy was nearly 18. Yang asked him why he wanted the tattoo, and he answered that tattoos were cool. To the boy's surprise, Yang did not then show him a range of designs and tell him about the price; instead Yang told him that a tattoo is alive, a pattern on your body to accompany you all your life. The boy still said he was eager to get one. Yang just said, "you are a teenager; you don't know anything about the meaning and effect of a tattoo. I do not think your decision is sensible." The boy left in a huff.

Yang met the boy again several days later. He'd gone somewhere else to get the tattoo and he showed it to Yang. He said it was different from the one he imagined and the effect was poor. Yang examined it for him and found there was no room for modifying the pattern. The boy said he wished he'd taken Yang's advice.

Another time, a young lady came to Yang's studio and said she wanted a tattoo of the word "Tong". Yang asked her what the word meant to her, and she said it was the name of the son she had aborted. She and her boyfriend had loved each other deeply, and she was excited to give their son a name, meaning hope and brilliance. But after she had been pregnant for seven months, she found her boyfriend was involved with criminal gangs. She made up her mind to break up with him and abort the child. To remember her beloved son, she decided to tattoo his name on her chest.

Yang was moved by her experience. However, he said that if in future she wanted to make a new start, the word would be an obstacle. But she wanted the tattoo in memory of her son and the good old days, and she insisted on tattooing the word. Yang thought about it carefully, then he designed a pattern of a broken heart with an arrow. The pattern's shape was similar to the word.

When Yang isn't busy and has no clients, he browses for information on the Internet.

One day, he read about a place in Tangshan looking for information on where and how to buy tattoo tools. As Yang already knew a lot about the various tools, he called them up and offered some advice and the benefit of his experience. He told them about how poor quality oil could harm the customers' skin and destroy the effect of the tattoo. He advised them that the quality of the tools was the most important thing. You could buy cheap ones, but then you would lose the trust of your customers.

#### Up from the underground?

As others have also taken to opening tattoo studios, Yang has built up a good reputation in the field. He established China's first nongovernmental tattoo association in 2002, to encourage his counterparts to join in and communicate about skills and trends. He also issued an illustrated book called *The Lost Tattoo* in 2001, set up China's first tattoo website ([www.wenshen.com](http://www.wenshen.com)) and became the first tattoo tool maker in China, whose tools are qualified to meet international standards.

Though China's society is opening up to the world, tattoos remain an underground enthusiasm. "In some overseas countries, tattoos play a vital part in the culture. It can reflect the improvement of people's mental life; it can even accelerate the sale of paints and machines. But in our nation, it's still hidden away. I build the website, issue the books and organize the association, aiming at drawing public attention, spreading correct ideas about tattoos and communicating with other artists. I have made my efforts in instructing society about accepting tattoos," he says.

Yang says that despite the increasing number of public tattoo activities, people still prefer to describe it as "body painting" rather than tattoos. It's as if society still thinks tattoos are a sign of bad influences. Facing this kind of pressure, Yang realizes there's still a lot to do to earn a good name for tattoo art in China.



By Lu Yuan / Peng Juan

An unusual cluster of ancient castles was discovered recently in the Qinhe River valley, Shanxi Province. The structures combine Chinese and western architectural styles and soldiers' hideout cells joined by corridor-like paths.

The structures were erected during the turbulent times of the late Ming (1368-1644) and early Qing (1644-1911) periods, the oldest dating back almost 400 years. The castles all have precise defensive systems, usually divided into three defense lines: village, city gate tower and fort. High towers were erected on each of the four corners of the city wall with small windows in the back wall controlling the four corners. The walls of the forts are usually six stories high and one meter thick, with grinders and millstones for processing grain, wells and barns inside, as well as defensive facilities like stones, embrasures, tunnels and gunpowder magazines.

#### Heshan Tower

Known as "the double-city ancient castle", Heshan Tower was built in a typical castle style comprising an inner and outer city. Fortified by nine gates and nine passes, the castle is an impregnable fortress. Made of black bricks, the 100-meter Heshan Tower could accommodate several hundred people. Inside the tower are wells, stone grinders, millstones and zigzagging secret pathways leading directly to the outside of the castle. With its abundant storage and complete facilities, the castle would not suffer from food shortages even under a long siege.

There are also 125 connected soldiers' hideout cells for concealing weapons – an ingenious structural element for protection against an attacking enemy.

#### Yu Tower

Yu Tower, a seven-storey castle in the town of Guoyu, stands across the river from Heshan Tower. Constructed after Heshan Tower, Yu Tower is larger in scale and more practical in design, with more living facilities such as cooking ranges and wider tunnels.

Situated at the foot of the hill and surrounded by a small river, Guoyu Castle is located directly behind the city wall. The soldiers' hideout cells behind the ancient city wall witnessed the disastrous times of war. Unlike other cells of this kind, these cavities were all connected by corridor-like paths, making them more flexible and practical in wartime. Outside the cells are holes used to keep

watch and shoot at the enemy. Roomy, with narrow openings, the cells are easy to defend but difficult to attack.

#### Diyi City

Diyi city was constructed on a huge natural rock encircled on three sides by the Qinhe River. It was named after the Qinhe River, which was known as Yi Shui in the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Referred to as the "honeycomb wall," the city was famous for its unbreachable city wall, which was made of cyan bricks on the outside encasing a mixture of mortar and stone strips. According to historians, there were more than 54 such castles in the Qinhe River Valley, most of which were constructed in the Ming and Qing dynasties.

#### Douzhuang Village

Known locally as "Little Beijing" and "the Lady City", Douzhuang village is one of the earliest castles in the Qinhe Riv-

er Valley, constructed by Zhang Wudian, a minister of revenue during the Ming Dynasty. It is an ancient castle with nine city gates and nine passes. Two years after its construction, when Douzhuang village was besieged by bandits, Zhang Wudian's daughter-in-law led the servants to defend the castle for three days, saving the village. The city therefore earned its name as "the Lady City" after Zhang's daughter-in-law. In the following years, Tuncheng city, Shangzhuang village, Huangcheng city, Guoyu town and Diyi city were constructed in succession as defences against marauding bandits.

erment and the people." **Chrysalis of ancient military culture** According to Zhong, the soldiers' hideout cell design was the most ingenious – unlike the tunnels of earlier dynasties. The cells were dug inside the city wall and each could hold about 40 soldiers. Soldiers hid in the cells and could quickly emerge to the surface when the enemy struck. Thanks to these effective defences, roving bandits had little success in breaking into the ancient castles. Today, the black-brick ancient castles are still in superb condition after some 400 years. According to local experts, the walls were lined with bricks inside and out with rammed earth in between. Zhong, who has studied Chinese military architecture for many years, regards the defensive facilities as a milestone in Chinese ancient military culture: "The defense of the cities in Chinese history mainly depended on high and solid city walls and other accessory facilities, such as entrenchments in front of the city wall, soldiers' cells on the inside, tunnels and various emplacements on the top of city wall. Ancient castles mainly withstood attacks with weapons that did not employ gun powder. With the advent of firearms, city walls became very vulnerable in the face of powerful shellfire, and ancient castles gradually declined. However, these ingenious

## Northern Castles Come to Light



Heshan Tower

Photo provided by Lu Yuan

structures are still the chrysalis of ancient military culture."

#### Masterpieces of Chinese architectural aesthetics

The ancient castles are not only original defense structures, but also masterpieces of Chinese architectural aesthetics. They are noteworthy for their harmony with nature, reaching the pinnacle of architecture and art in China.

Based on the traditional architectural aesthetic principle, the buildings inside the castles are interconnected courtyards laid out like a chessboard. The buildings have more or less absorbed the architectural styles of southern China, since their owners tended to be merchants or officials who once engaged in business there.

The five-storied house, with

a smooth and bright mirror-like surface in Xiangyu village, is by far the best-preserved multi-level residence in northern China. Its outer cornices and pendant door and window columns are engraved with various designs symbolizing the Sun family architecture. The side rooms are one storey higher than the principal rooms, a typical western architectural style rarely seen in pre-Ming Dynasty China. Shang village, the former residence of Yan Xishan's secretary – the powerful Shanxi warlord – is a rare harmonious combination of Chinese and western architectural styles in the Qinhe River Valley.

Inside the castles, the courtyards and buildings are linked via crisscrossing tunnels or arcades like a network of lab-

rynths, reflecting the Chinese rational concept of defense and communications.

According to architectural experts, compared to the historic merchant compounds in Shanxi Province, the Qinhe River Valley castles better reflect the breadth of vision of the ancient merchants and officials, and bear witness to the unique history of the rich households in the valley.

Compared to the *tulou*, or earth buildings, in Southeast China's Fujian Province, which have already been listed as a world cultural heritage, the castles are different in style but equally satisfactory in terms of architectural features: encircled castles with an open interior, enhancing their military defensive functions.

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What's on DVD

By Jiang Haoshu



Film Noir Classic Collection

Five timeless suspense thrillers in one package: *The Asphalt Jungle*; *Gun Crazy*; *Murder, My Sweet*; *Out of the Past*; and *The Set-up*, bring back memories of such iconic names as Robert Ryan, Audry Totter, John Huston and Marilyn Monroe. With audio commentary for each film. DVD 5, English, French, Spanish with English and Chinese subtitles.



At Dawn It's Quiet Here...

One of a series released by the Russian Film Council, this is a heart-wrenching drama about a detachment of young women, their commander, and their encounter with a group of armed-to-the-teeth Fascists in World War II. It was nominated for a Best Foreign Film Oscar in 1972. DVD 5, Russian, English, Chinese with Russian, English and Chinese subtitles.



Ancient Apocalypse

A BBC-Learning Channel co-production on the stories of how the best of man's achievements were destroyed by the worst of nature's forces, including: *Death on the Nile*, *Mystery of the Minoans*, *The Maya Collapse*, and *Sodom and Gomorrah*. DVD 5, English, Chinese and Cantonese language and subtitles.

The Fiancée Flees to Beijing

By Jacqueline Yu

For many young dramatists, Russian literature remains an essential treasure trove in terms of interpreting ways to express new ideas on social phenomena.

An example of such an approach is *Raskolnikov*, staged at the Mini Theatre of the People's Art Theatre last October. The play was adapted from Fyodor Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* by Gu Lei, a graduate student of Beijing Institute of Technology, who wrote, directed and starred in the production.

The play received mixed reviews, focusing mainly on whether such a young student had the ability to grasp the soul of this great piece. Some critics maintained that Gu did no more than copy a few characters and the setting, and used them to express his personal thoughts and pain in an incomprehensible manner.

Similar questions hang over *The Fiancée (or The Bride)*, a play that is more inspired by than based on Anton Chekhov's last short story, *Betrothed* (1913), which was produced by a group of dramatists all born no earlier than 1980.



In Chekhov's original story, a young woman flees her hometown just before her wedding, with the desire to find a new life of opportunity. She ends up happily educating herself in Petersburg, although her escape has disastrous consequences for her family.

While scriptwriter An Ying's story comes from the real life experience of a friend, also an 80s-born woman, it centers around the anxiety a young woman feels while she is preparing for her wedding in her fiancé's home. According to producer Lao Xiang, the play tries to push the story

forward using the same plain narrative as Chekhov's work.

To promote the drama, the producers use the slogan, "This drama will cure your marriage-fright." Lao Xiang said that they hope to encourage young lovers to go bravely into marriage, and a few VIP tickets have been set aside for newly married couples who bring their marriage certificates with them.

**Where:** Experimental Theatre, third floor People's Art Theatre **When:** 7:30 pm, till September 5 (except Monday) **Tickets:** 80 yuan **Tel:** 6526 3337

Billboard Singles Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
Lean Back	Terror Squad	True Story
Sunshine	Lil' Flip Featuring Lea	U Gotta Feel Me
Goodies	Ciara Featuring Petey Pablo	(CD-Single)
Slow Motion	Juvenile Featuring Soulja Slim	Juve the Great
Turn Me On	Kevin Lyttle Featuring Spragga Benz	Kevin Lyttle



Official UK Singles Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
These Words	Natasha Bedingfield	Unwritten
Baby Cakes	3 Of A Kind	(CD-Single)
Gun's Don't Kill People Rappers Do	Goldie Lookin' Chain	(CD-Single)
Thunderbirds	Busted	A Present for Everyone
Dry Your Eyes	The Streets	A Grand don't Come for Free



For the second week in a row, Terror Squad's *Lean Back* tops Billboard's Hot 100. Despite the continued strong performance of the single, Terror Squad's second album, *True Story*, tumbles 14-31 on The Billboard 200. Rising 3-2 on the Hot 100, Lil' Flip's *Sunshine* featuring Lea is looking like a serious contender for the crown. It is also on the tail of *Lean Back* on Billboard's Hot Rap Tracks tally, where the track advances 3-2. Ciara's *Goodies* featuring Petey

Pablo makes a 6-3 Hot 100 jump this week, while former chart-topper *Slow Motion* by Juvenile drops two slots to No. 4. After a two-week stint in the fourth slot, Kevin Lyttle's *Turn Me On* falls one spot to No. 5.

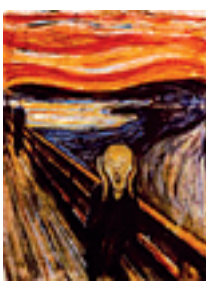
On the UK Chart, Natasha Bedingfield, the 22-year-old sister of British hitmaker Daniel Bedingfield, scored her first UK No. 1. as *These Words* debuted at the top. It is the first time in British chart history that a

brother and sister have scored separate UK No. 1 singles; Daniel hit the top with *Gotta Get Thru This* in 2001, *If You're Not the One* in 2002 and *Never Gonna Leave Your Side* last year. *These Words* is the follow-up to Natasha's debut hit *Single*, which reached No. 3 in May. Last week's best-selling single, 3 Of A Kind's *Baby Cakes*, fell to No. 2, as Welsh hip-hop act Goldie Lookin' Chain entered at No. 3 with *Guns Don't Kill People Rappers Do*.

WORLDWIDE

Norway Searches for Stolen Masterpieces

Police fielded a flood of tips but still had no leads Monday on the daring theft of Edward Munch's *The Scream* by armed robbers who barged into a lightly guarded Oslo museum and ripped it and another painting from the walls before the eyes of stunned visitors.



The Scream

Police, who launched a nationwide hunt for the works, said there had been no word from the thieves, who were widely expected to demand a ransom. *The Scream*, a 20th century icon of angst, is too well known for the thieves to try to sell, experts say.

"It can only be with horror that you react to something like this," deputy culture minister Yngve Slettholm said by telephone, also expressing shock over what he said was Norway's first armed art theft. "We can only hope they end up back at the Munch Museum." (AP)

Miami Braces for MTV Awards

Miami braced for an invasion of glitz and glamour as celebrities headed to the steamy US city for the annual MTV music video awards, where the likes of rapper Jay-Z and pal Beyonce Knowles will snag some coveted "Moonmen."



Beyonce

Stars at the August 29 bash include Alicia Keys, Sean "P. Diddy" Combs, Jennifer Lopez and Gwyneth Paltrow and other entertainment world elite. Tickets to the show are sold out, but music fans can look forward to free outdoor concerts or, if they're lucky enough to score an invite or slip past the bouncers, some serious partying.

A slew of lavish parties will rock hip South Beach, only a bridge - or a boat ride - away from the American Airlines Arena where the main event will be staged and broadcast to a worldwide audience. (AFP)

Norah Jones Adjusting to Fame

Norah Jones says she's finally adjusting to all that fame and attention. Two years after her smash album *Come Away With Me* made her a household name, Jones released *Feels Like Home* and waited for the new wave of hype. Her first album sold 18 million copies and netted eight Grammy Awards. Her latest has sold about five million copies.



Norah Jones

Everywhere she turned, it seemed, her face was on some magazine cover. "I'm starting to enjoy it finally," the singer-musician told the Baltimore Sun Friday. "In the beginning, it was freaky. I'm just a musician, you know, and all of a sudden I'm supposed to be this star."

*Feels Like Home* is "just a reflection of me and the band. The recording is just a slice in time," Jones said. "I'm anxious to move on. I'm only 25. I want to have fun and play good music." (AP)

Rory Culkin Up the Creek

There has to be something in the Culkin blood that produces talented young actors. First there was Macaulay



Macaulay Culkin

(*Home Alone*), then Kieran (*Cider House Rules*). More recently, audiences have taken note of Rory, who first came to our attention in Kenneth Lonergan's 2000 film debut, *You Can Count on Me*, in which he starred opposite Laura Linney and Mark Ruffalo. Next came M. Night Shyamalan's *Signs*, in which he played Mel Gibson's son.

Rory, at 15 the youngest of seven Culkin children, can now be seen in first-time feature writer/director Jacob Aarons' *Mean Creek*, which opened in limited release Friday. Rory stars as Sam, an 11-year-old kid who is tired of being targeted by the school bully (Josh Peck) and with the help of his older brother (Trevor Morgan) and some friends seeks payback. (Reuters)

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By Xie Lixue

The first Golden Job Recruitment event held last Friday at the Beijing Great Wall Sheraton was no typical hodge-podge, crammed, claustrophobic employment fair. In keeping with its focus on high-level management positions, it was a classy affair, well designed and executed to allow prospective employees, employers and headhunters to mix and mingle and try to find the right people for top jobs. More than 60 top companies, including domestic IT firms Lenovo Group and Thunis Co., as well as foreign corporations like electronics firm JVC and insurer AIA, took part and tried to fill over 600 positions.

The elegance and orderliness of the Golden Job Recruitment fair was fitting since all the jobs on offer were senior positions with starting salaries of 80,000 yuan a year and up and high requirements for education and work experience. The event provided a forum for prospective managers to talk to recruiters and turn in resumes, with actual hiring to be done later – meaning its success was hard to judge.

Are fairs fair?

Last week's event was very different from the over 30 job recruitment events held in Beijing in the first half of this year, which were aimed at lower-level posi-

# Trolling for Top Talent



The Golden Job Recruitment event was the first local fair for finding management-level talent. Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

tions. Yet only eight percent of participants at those fairs actually found employment, according to figures from Dongfang Huibo Human Resources Co, the employment agency that spon-

sored the Golden Job Recruitment event.

By putting all the power in the hand of recruiters, young human resources department staff can have surprising power over

the career prospects of even experienced people looking for new jobs. "Some senior applicants have complained about how a young woman half their age was able to judge their careers," said

an article in *China Youth Daily* on Friday.

Another obstacle to finding work at job fairs, for many applicants, is the shallow emphasis on work experience.

"It is very difficult to change fields nowadays," the report said. "Companies strongly prefer people who have extensive experience in their fields. A holder of an MBA from Beijing University told us after working in sales for years, he tried to shift to human resources but could not get hired, even with relevant certification."

Competition without conflict

Surveys conducted by headhunting and recruitment firms indicate that around 30 percent of companies hire new employees through job fairs, though only six percent look to fill top positions at such events. That leaves the management market wide open to headhunting agencies.

"Therefore, there are many companies in the employment industry, but there is little conflict between them," said Dongfang Huibo General Manager Sun Dayuan.

"Headhunters' services are specialized and better suited to the needs of elite staff. Our advantage, through an event like this, is that we can provide companies with access to a wide range of choices for filling top positions."

By Xie Lixue

Imagine getting to watch hot new releases like *Shrek 2* and *Spiderman 2* over and over and getting paid well for it. Such are the pleasurable conditions of working in the growing field of film translation.

With China opening its theaters to increasing numbers of foreign flicks, demand for competent subtitlists and translators is growing, but there are a few things prospective film interpreters should know before diving in.

How it's done

Truly professional translating of foreign movies into Chinese takes multiple viewings of the subject films. In taking one, translators must clearly understand the plot and the kind of language used by each character. Only then can the script be turned into colloquial Chinese, as the idea is to make the translated version as culturally appropriate as the original.

Further viewings are required to hone rough edges in the translation, which then must be put through the arduous process of adjustment so that the spoken Chinese over dub will match the timing of the actors' mouth movements. The process ends with a final viewing to make sure everything comes out right.

# Translating Film into a Great Job

"This is really enjoyable work if you are a movie fan," said Wang Jinxi, director of the movie translation department at Bayi Film Studio. Wang is a 10-year veteran of the field and has overseen the translation of more than 40 foreign films, including *Forrest Gump* and *Saving Private Ryan*.

"Generally speaking, one translator takes charge of each film and should finish it within seven days. As the domestic market has developed, though, some foreign blockbusters like *The Matrix: Revolutions* and *The Day After Tomorrow* have had simultaneous world releases, including in China, giving our translators a mere four days to get all the work done. That can make producing a quality translation very challenging."

What it takes

Like many other aspects of China, the field of movie translation has undergone explosive development. In the 1950s and 60s, translation was done by people with backgrounds in foreign languages, Chinese literature or film, and nearly every



Wang Jinxi at Bayi Film Studio's audio mixing center Photo by Xie Lixue

movie shown was revolutionary in theme. The same people were often hired to provide simultaneous interpretation for high-profile foreign visitors.

Today, Beijing is home to a specialized breed of translators that focus on film only.

"Translating movies is very different from translating literature or other books," said Gu Tiejun, a teacher of movie translation at the International Communications College of the

tions," he said.

Wang explained that his course was meant not only to hone students' English and Chinese language proficiency, but also to give them a solid foundation in domestic and foreign literature and culture and an understanding of the whole process of movie production.

At the same time, good translators have to be able to write in a very accessible style, he said. "Movies are popular entertainment among all kinds of people, therefore the language must be very colloquial so it can be understood by everyone."

Encouraging news for people who studied other fields but want to get into the translation racket is that specific degrees are not necessary. "One of our most experienced translators, Liu Dayong, only holds a distance-learning degree, but has been successful thanks to his enthusiasm and translating talent. We also take into account translators' personalities. Cartoons tend to get assigned to playful, youthful translators, while war films go to more serious people."

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# Education Expo Builds Bridges

By Zhang Nan / Liu An

Tuesday was an exciting day for educators and students from all over the country, as it marked the launch of the Beijing International Education Expo at the China International Exhibition Center. The expo, the first of the kind organized by the Beijing Municipal Education Commission and the China Scholarship Council, was aimed at promoting international education cooperation and exchange and improving the overall quality and competitiveness of China's education system.

The three-day event provided a platform for international educators to share their experiences, while pushing China forward in the global education field and opening the country's doors to foreign education institutions ready to operate by domestic rules.

Tuesday's opening ceremony drew such high officials as Xu Jialu, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the 10th National People's Congress, Zhang Xinsheng, vice minister of education and Zhu Shanlu, a member of the Beijing Municipal Committee and secretary of the Sub-committee of Educational Affairs.

The expo was divided into four major segments: educational exhibitions, forums, an inter-



Beijing Municipal Committee member Zhu Shanlu speaks at Tuesday's opening ceremony.  
Photo by Zhang Nan



Student dance shows were a first-day highlight.  
Photo by Zhang Nan

national cooperation program fair and student performances.

More than 360 schools and education organizations from

China and abroad are taking part, two thirds of which are Chinese professional and primary schools and study abroad agencies and one-third overseas universities and organizations.

Most attendees said they came to establish links with foreign educational organizations.

"This is an open chance to communicate with other people in the field and draw on the experiences of excellent schools both in China and abroad," said Fan Hong, assistant president of the National Culture and Arts Professional School of Beijing.

Zheng Zhonghua, vice-chair of the Academy of Chinese Traditional Opera said, "Our school intends to promote and develop the teaching of traditional Chinese opera by coming to this exhibition and attract more foreign students to our school. We also hope to grab the opportunities to establish joint programs with foreign universities."

Similar goals drew representatives of Chinese schools and kindergartens, seeking to develop their international positions through mixing with the diverse pools of participants.

"This is a great opportunity for us to promote our new project," said Xia Dongmei, an English teacher at Beijing Primary School. "We have recently built a new sub-school, which will enroll international primary students and students from other parts of China. The students, especially the foreign students, will have great chances to experience study and life in China."

Karen Zhao, president of the Huizhong Kindergarten and Beijing Oxford Baby Bilingual Kindergarten said, "Although our kindergarten has already earned a good reputation in China, we want to expand our influence in the child education field and let more people know the features of our education system through the expo."



Photo by Liu An

## Dozens of Study Abroad Agencies Sign Ethical Vow

By Liu An

Hoping to wipe away the sins of the past, 34 domestic foreign study agencies on Tuesday morning signed the Beijing Study Abroad Agencies Statement of Ethics, a document meant to provide regulation of competition between agencies and boost their credibility.

Study abroad agencies have been the subject of plenty of bad press in recent years as a result of some immoral operators whose cons of eager students damaged the reputation of the whole industry. The statement signed this week is intended to directly counter the idea that many agencies are amoral by

setting standards for business operations and services.

The agencies that signed make up the majority of the 46 agencies approved and certified by the Chinese government.

In the keynote speech at the signing ceremony, Ma Yu'e, president of the Chivast Education International agency said, "This is a great chance for agencies to build their brands and their images by establishing standard principles for the industry."

The statement covers nearly every aspect of agency services, from applications to visas, staff qualification and management to business operations.

## Agencies Raise Profiles at Expo

By Zhang Nan

The Beijing International Education Exposition gave Chinese study abroad agencies welcome chances to promote their images and their services to domestic students, and ended up drawing 34 such companies.

"By attending the exhibition, we can talk face-to-face with people interested in studying abroad," said Yang Yang, an employee of Ziming Culture Exchange Co.

"Since China's agency market is not well-managed, many people do not clearly under-

stand our services. There are many qualified agencies in China that provide students with professional, comprehensive and personalized services. This exhibition gives us the chance to establish a more positive image in society."

Chen Luyi, director and chief consultant of Beijing JLL Overseas Education Consulting & Service Co. said, "Agencies can use this event to find more foreign universities for establishing cooperative relations, which will allow us to offer domestic students even better services and choices."

## Foreign Schools See Ripe Opportunities in China Market

By Zhang Nan

More than 30 foreign universities, including such famed institutions as Oxford University, the University of Minnesota and the University of Melbourne, took part in this week's expo to introduce themselves to and attract Chinese students.

Eileen Marston, administrator of Oxford's modern language faculty, said she enjoyed answering Chinese students' questions at the event. "Our real purpose in coming to China to attend the expo is to make more Chinese students know about our educational options and courses. We're not here simply to draw students, we want to develop our position in China's education market," she said.

"Many students have asked me about our graduate courses," said Samuel Schuman of the US' University of Minnesota. "We warmly welcome Chinese students to come to our university to study and live."

Irene Brown, representing Australia's University of Melbourne, gave Chinese students high praise. "Chinese students



Eileen Marston of Oxford University talks with prospective Chinese students.  
Photo by Zhang Nan

are excellent and study very hard. We would be very happy to get more Chinese students to come to our university to study."

Besides introducing their schools, many universities representatives participated in the expo to find new opportunities for cooperation with Chinese universities.

"I have already met with four or five people from China's educational field," said Schuman. "I hope that we can cooperate in some academic areas. That would provide opportunities for cross-cultural interaction for Chinese and American students."

## Visa Officers Talk Policy

By James Liu

Eager audiences flocked to talks on entrance and exit policy from visa officers from the US, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, France, Italy, and South Africa at the China International Exhibition Center on Tuesday and Wednesday, part of the Beijing International Education Expo.

Each officer was given 40 minutes to clearly explain his or her country's visa policies, followed by 10-minute question and answer sessions with the audience, mostly made up of study abroad agents and parents eager to provide their children with international educations.



Photo by James Liu

South Africa is the newest of those seven countries to open to students from China. To attract more Chinese youth to enroll in South African colleges, the country "began to allow foreign students to get part time jobs as of July 2002," said visa officer Matshepo Tsoku.

## Diversity of Opinion Drives Education Forum

By James Liu

Twenty-five education professionals met to talk shop at the International Forum on Education Development, an activity run under the Beijing International Education Expo 2004 on Monday and Tuesday.

Discussion among participating officials, university leaders, entrepreneurs and experts honed in on education development trends, strategies and theories, cooperation and exchange among different countries and regions and the importance of diversity in education. Key speakers included Zhang Xinsheng, vice minister of education, Carl Dahlman, senior specialist at the World Bank and economist Robert A. Mundell.

Participants from Australia, Japan, Canada, the United States and South Korea described education development strategies in their countries and special education programs as references and suggestions for China's educational future.

Clau de Canizares, vice provost of the world-famous Massachusetts Institute of Technology, drew lots of attention with his introduction to MIT's OCW, or open courseware, program. That program, launched in 2001, pro-



MIT Vice Provost Clau de Canizares talked about his university's open courseware program on Tuesday.  
Photo by James Liu

vides all the university's course materials on one website, allowing students and scholars from around the world to access the information.

"Today, 300,000 people read the courses every month. We are translating some selected courses into Chinese," Canizares said.

Dr. Seokhee Cho, director of the National Research Center on

Gifted and Talented Education under the Korean Education Development Institute introduced South Korea's "Gifted Education Law of 2000". That law not only defines who are gifted students, it makes clear the responsibilities of schools, school boards and the central government in providing them special education programs from grades 1 to 12.

Ding Zuyi, president of the Xi'an Translators Institute, said he went to the forum to find international education organizations to cooperate with his private school. "In my opinion, China is the biggest market in terms of college education and private education should have a position in the country," Ding told *Beijing Today* on Tuesday.

## Teaming Up for Better Learning

By Liu An

The highlight of the 2004 Expo was the program conference held Tuesday through Thursday at which Chinese and overseas education institutions as well as domestic study abroad agencies met and talked about pursuing cooperation and working together to build new bridges between schools, programs and students around the world.

Representatives of more than 200 Chinese and overseas education-related organizations took part in the event and organizers said they expected around 100 new cooperation deals to be signed into action by the end of the expo.

Main topics of discussion at the three-day conference were Sino-foreign cooperation, teacher and student exchange programs, recruitment by both Chinese and overseas educators and the newest educational products and relevant services. Among the foreign schools to take part were the office of Cambridge International Examination, Poland's Warsaw University of Technology and Assumption University of Thailand, all of which actively sought partners for new

joint education programs.

At Thursday's International Cooperation Program Signing Ceremony at the China International Exhibition Center, participants signed more than 20 new deals for Sino-foreign cooperative education programs.

Participants said they came away from the conference with four valuable lessons for the future.

**Foreign language a must for cooperative programs**

Yang Yan, a representative of University of Paris 5 told *Beijing Today* that French language competence was a requirement for students hoping to enroll in the university or its preparatory and cooperative programs in China. To get a degree issued by the university, students must pass courses taught in French.

**Split programs on the rise**

Cooperative education programs in which students spend half their time in China and half in a foreign country are exploding in popularity were a major focus at the event. Part of the attraction is that such programs offer international-



Photo by Liu An

level degrees at lower cost than studying abroad full-time.

University of Paris 5's Yang said two private Chinese universities had expressed great interest in setting up such split-time exchange programs, but she was waiting for more established public universities to actually launch cooperation.

**Private schools struggle in seeking cooperation**

Many Chinese private universities hope to use joint programs with overseas educational organizations to lift their own reputations and boost recruitment, but establishing such programs can be a struggle as truly top foreign universities are only interested in working with coun-

terparts of equivalent strength in China. A representative of private Beijing Yuanmingyuan College told *Beijing Today* his challenge was to draw foreign partners by offering attractive conditions and benefits instead of relying on reputation only.

**Study agencies forging new roles**

Smart domestic study abroad agencies are shifting to position themselves as service providers to the growing numbers of Sino-foreign programs. These agencies could prove especially helpful in handling visa matters, a field in which they have extensive experience, said Wang Tiejun of Beijing JLL Overseas Education Consulting & Services Co.



By Sabu

There's no shortage of places to pick up music and the latest DVDs to get the pirate treatment in this city, but few earn real distinction. Life as Film, or Fusheng Lueying, makes the superior cut thanks to its deep collection and great location, tucked just off the southern strip of bars along Houhai.

The store owner lauded his extensive selection of movie soundtracks – “the largest in Beijing” – but the music stacks reach far further than just film tracks, including plenty of pop, R&B, hip-hop, rock and jazz disks. Prices run from 20 yuan to 150 yuan for original imports.

As the store's name indicates, however, the focus is on film. The store is brimming over with the newest releases as well as cult flicks, classics and everything in between, fetching 5 yuan for a standard D5 DVD and 25 yuan per high-end D9 disk. Especially impressive is the range of box sets that run the gamut from focuses on directors or actors like Bruce Lee, Clint Eastwood and Fruit Chen, to complete series of Japanese cartoons and select films from anime king Hayao Miyazaki, to nicely-packaged sets of trilogies like *The Matrix* and *The Godfather*. Music fans should check out the selection of concert DVDs and music video collections to add visuals to their listening pleasure.

Life As Film offers an unusual level of customer service, best represented by a red message board on which customers can write the names of DVDs they cannot find and then kick back on a comfortable chair near a sunny window as staff dig up the titles.

Hard-core film fans will want to check out the impressive collection of posters and movie-inspired toys. Posters range from little pictures (30 yuan) depicting *Taxi Driver*, *Lanyu* and the Sex Pistols to full-sized versions (150 yuan), like a striking poster of *The Scent of Green Papaya*. The toy shelves include lots of collectible trinkets, including a special, limited edition *Lord of The Rings* set that offers four top-quality DVDS and a sculpted toy, all for only 300 yuan.

**Where:** No.9 Yindingqiao Hutong, Xicheng **Open:** 11 am - midnight **Tel:** 6612 3286



Photo by Sabu

## Ride Riggings

By Wang Yao

Autofans chain stores are favorites of many drivers out for tip-top gear to decorate or improve their cars, including some Japanese imports.

People who like to take corners fast or tend to forget stuff should invest in a slide-proof holder to keep small items from moving around the cabin. The unobtrusive items range in size, but all are capable of holding cell phones, keys or other small things fixed and firm at prices of 35 yuan to 80 yuan.

Smokers looking to keep the air in their car clean can check out a striking little fire extinguisher ashtray (260 yuan) imported from Japan. It has a slot into which special bamboo carbon filters can be fitted to suck up tobacco odors and airborne germs.

A line of imported seat covers (160-195 yuan) allows drivers to sit in comfort and style, as many are printed with subtle or fun patterns including cartoon characters.

For drivers out to make external statements, Autofans offers all kinds of water- and sun-proof

stickers, mostly bearing car terms and auto brands. Prices run from 8 to 140 yuan depending on size.

**Where:** NO.1C-02, So Cool, Jiangzhaihou, Dongcheng **Open:** 9 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 6421 6250



Air freshener, 50 yuan



Photos by Wang Yumeng

## Art Mart

By Wang Yao

The Hongzhong Shimei Center is a one-stop shopping spot for artists professional and amateur.

Sculptors looking for a fun medium can check out the line of top-quality pottery clays in a rainbow of colors. These clays are mild to the skin and sold in chunks that fetch 2.5 to 15 yuan each.

For a more lustrous look, the store also stocks moldable silver of remarkable purity imported from Japan. It comes in liquid and solid versions, which range in price from 60 yuan to 100 yuan.

The liquid is put into special injectors for creating fine silver patterns, while the solid clay-like product is easy to shape into sculptures or creative jewelry shapes. Both harden into

near-metal with some time in an oven.

Painting brushes main tools, come in common versions as well as high-end models, such as ones made with organic glass stems that are comfortably firm and grippy in the hand with supple nylon tips. For the quality, they are a great deal at 18 yuan per set.

The store also offers a range of adjustable easels. The Cadillac of easels is a tall model made of quality wood and painted dark green. Its height is adjustable, and a cleverly placed shelf offers convenient storage for select tools. The easel requires advance ordering and fetches 750 yuan.

**Where:** No.9 Meishuguan Dongjie, Dongcheng **Open:** 9 am - 6 pm **Tel:** 8403 3604

## Treats for Teens

By Ruan Ying

Teens and young adults looking for an energy boost during a Xidan shopping spree have a new place to go thanks to Shopping One, a funky store that offers up little gifts and tasty, exotic snacks shipped from as far as Vietnam, Thailand, the US and England. There's no real rhyme or reason to what shows up on the shelves, but that seems to be part of the store's appeal.

The shopkeeper heaped praise upon one treat in particular, a sweet and delicious, albeit a bit oily, cake made from mung beans brought in from Vietnam and sold at 10 yuan per satisfying serving.

For a taste of Thailand, check out the “manora” (26 yuan), an addictive meat and potato mixture made extra attractive in a colorful box. A box of Metro biscuits (15 yuan) from the Philippines is a more conventional choice, a butter-sandwich snack perfect for a quick, caloric picker-upper.

The non-edible selections include a line of fancy soaps carved in the shapes of flowers and more. Prices run in the low range of 5 yuan to 10 yuan and all the soaps contain milk and vitamin C to sooth and nourish skin.

**Where:** Hanguocheng, fourth floor, Xidan Huawei Plaza, Xicheng **Open:** 9 am - 8:40 pm **Tel:** 13381130664

## True Blue

The Summer Olympics may be nearly over, but it's not too late to celebrate the heroics by picking up authentic, Athens-inspired items. Big name brands have come up with all kinds of Olympic-themed goods that make fashionable, fun memorials of the return of the Games to their ancestral home.

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## Personal Classifieds

## Accommodation

Capital Paradise Town-house, fully furnished, for rent. US \$1,200 per month. Contact: Wong, 13801312043

## Sale and Wanted

Casio 2.2" LCD TV 300 yuan for sale. Wilson tennis Racket Pro series Hammer 5.2 1,200 yuan, Hammer 5.5 1,400 yuan. Contact: Michael, 13801241200

New Samsung single-door refrigerator, suitable for singles' use. Price: 500 yuan. Contact: 6582 7154

One set of almost new lady's Cougar golf clubs complete with golf bag (only 7 iron has been used) - US \$350; One set of men's Cougar golf clubs complete with golf bag - US\$350. Discount if purchase both sets. Contact: Wong, 13801312043

## Language Exchange

Miss Liu, English major, would like to teach and help foreign friends to learn Chinese and understand Chinese culture. Tel: 6010 4605

Beijing girl, 25, well educated, good looking, is seeking English or Japanese partner (native speaker preferred). Email: flyingyoung2000@163.com

A Beijinger is eager to look for a native English speaker. Female or university student is preferred. Contact: 13522995928 or email: tommy\_zhang671@sohu.com

## Personals

Janet, 24-year Chinese girl, is looking for a boyfriend who owns (or rents long term) a big apartment (90 square meters or more), located in a nice area of Beijing. Believe me, something magic may happen in life. Contact: pedcjanet@hotmail.com

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## Movies



**Breaking the Silence (Piaoliang Mama)**

Directed by Sun Zhou, starring Gao Xin, Gong Li and Li Chengru. A woman is abandoned by her husband when she gives birth to a son who is deaf. The story traces her life of struggling to "break the silence" that this disability brings to his life and hers.

Determined to see that her son has a normal life, she quits her job at a joint venture in Beijing in order to teach him at home. She meets one obstacle after another as she refuses to allow her son to suffer any form of discrimination.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm tonight and Saturday **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303

**Red Rose White Rose (Hong Meigui, Bai Meigui)**

Directed by Stanley Kwan, starring Winston Chao, Joan Chen and Veronica Yip. Set in pre-liberation Shanghai, the film tells the story of a man who finds himself torn between two women: his wife, the white rose, and his friend's wife, the red rose.

**Where:** B2M bar, Dongheyan Xiaoqu, Ditan Park South Gate **When:** August 29, 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6426 1091

**Hold You Tight (Yue Kuaile, Yue Duoluo)**

Directed by Stanley Kwan, starring Eric Tsang and Chingmy Yau. This is an intricately plotted, sexy and emotive film. It revolves around five characters whose lives intersect over a period of several months, who are struggling to understand their own lives and sexualities.

**Where:** B2M bar, Dongheyan Xiaoqu, Ditan Park South Gate **When:** August 30, 8 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6426 1091



## Exhibitions



**Landscape Paintings by Renowned Contemporary Chinese Artists**

Landscape painting has always held a preeminent position among the various styles of Chinese painting.

This exhibition features representative works from Zhang Bu, Xu Xi, Yang Yanwen, Du Yingqiang, Liu Maoshan, Feng Linzhang, Liu Yongming, Song Di, Zhao Wuchao, Huang Gesheng, Xue Liang and Feng Yinmin.

**Reception:** Saturday, 3 pm **Where:** Wan Fung Art Gallery, 136 Nanchizi Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** August 28 - September 7 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6523 3320



**The San Yuan Li Project: Cao Fei and Ou Ning**

San Yuan Li, a collaborative work by members of the Guangdong-based U-theque group, is a case study of the typical "village-amidst-the-city" phenomenon in the process of urbanization in Canton.

San Yuan Li uses San Yuan Li village as a sample to do research on the city of Canton. Armed with DV cameras, the crew penetrated San Yuan Li village, attempting to rethink the debt of history, the confrontation and reconciliation between the process of modernization, the patriarchal clan system and the rural community system of Canton. All of the images are then woven into a piece of black-and-white image poetry.

**Where:** 95 Donghuamen Dajie, Dongcheng **When:** until September 18 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6526 8882

## The Final Bound-Feet

Several years ago, the topic of bound feet was taboo. People avoided talking about it just

## Guitar Show

Sponsored by www.seeguitar.com, a line-up of China's most outstanding guitarists will take to the stage at New Get Lucky for a night of spontaneous performances.

**Where:** New Get Lucky, Tianze Lu, A1 Dongfang Qicai Dashijie in Laitai Flower Market, Chaoyang **When:** August 29, 8 pm **Admission:** 30 yuan (20 yuan for students) **Tel:** 8448 3335



## Festival of Punk

Beijing Rejects and Goose and Duck Ranch are organizing Holiday on the Hill, bringing together a mass of punk bands for a day-long outdoor concert. Bands include Joy-side, Brain Failure, A-OK, Recycle, Last Chance of Youth, Goober Skin Bomb and many more.

**Pick-up:** Buses leave at 2 pm (VIP ticket holders leave 9 am) from the Goose and Duck Bar, Chaoyang Park west gate. **When:** Au-

## Jams

gust 28, 4 pm to midnight **Cost:** 100 yuan for the concert, transportation, barbecue and drinks; 200 yuan VIP tickets include entertainment facilities and games **Tel:** 13501242412

## Rock 'n' Rose

Second Hand Rose play their inimitable style of Dongbei rock at Nameless Highland.

**Where:** New Get Lucky, Tianze Lu, A1 Dongfang Qicai Dashijie in Laitai Flower Market, Chaoyang

**When:** August 28, 10 pm **Admission:** 50 yuan (40 yuan for students) **Tel:** 8448 3335

## Six-Winged Angel

A big welcoming round of applause for visiting Taiwan progressive metal band Six-Winged Angel (Liuyi Tian-shi).

**Where:** Nameless Highland bar, Building 14, Anhuili Area 1, Yanyuncun, Chaoyang **When:** Saturday, 9:30 pm **Admission:** 40 yuan (30 yuan for students) **Tel:** 6489 1613

## Activities

## Day-trip: Stone cave dwellings in the cliff

Chinese Culture Club takes you to the Guyaju cave dwellings in the cliffs of Yanqing County. The intriguing cave complex still baffles historians. Records suggest they were built between the Tang and Liao dynasties by the Xi tribe.

**Where:** meet at Chinese Culture Club (29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang) to catch the bus **When:** August 29, 9 am **Cost:** 150 yuan (members: 120 yuan) **Tel:** 6432 9341

## YPHH: Wine Tasting at Centro

First Wednesday of the month: Wine at Centro! Since it is still warm in Beijing we have again chosen a grape, the Sauvignon Blanc. Selections from five different countries of this beautiful, fruity wine.

**Where:** Centro, in the lobby of the Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu **When:** September 1, 6:30-8:30 pm **Admission:** 100 yuan (including snacks and live music) **Tel:** 6561 8833



## Performance

## Sound of Nature

Over 60 minority group singers coming from 20 different provinces of China will perform in the Beijing Exhibition Hall Theatre this weekend.

Some of them are the only successor of some traditional Chinese folk songs which are on the brink of disappearance. This performance will certainly give the audience a memorable night.

**Where:** Beijing Exhibition Hall Theatre, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng **When:** August 29 and 30, 7:30 pm **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6835 4455

## Dance: Mulan

Mulan is a popular heroine who disguised herself as a man and joined the army. Performed by China Song and Dance Troupe.

**Where:** People's Art Experimental Theatre, 22 Wangfujing Dajie **When:** Sunday, 7:15 pm **Admission:** 100-280 yuan **Tel:** 6526 3388



## Music

## Unusual Faye - Faye Wong Live in Beijing

Wang Fei, music legend and fashion pioneer is bringing her sweet melodies and sartorial splendor to Beijing for one show only.

**Where:** Beijing Worker's Stadium **When:** August 28, 7:30 pm **Admission:** 100-1,500 yuan **Tel:** 8417 7845

## Service

## Formula One Festival

Spend more than 888 yuan at St. Regis restaurant or bar and be automatically entered into the draw for two "paddock" tickets for the Shanghai Grand Prix. Offer includes four-night stay at the St. Regis Shanghai and return airfare.

**Where:** 21 Jianguomenwai Dajie **When:** until September 10 **Tel:** 6460 6688

## TV and Radio Highlights

HBO	
27 Friday	
Pavement	11:35 pm
28 Saturday	
The Wild Thornbeerys Movie	9:00 pm
29 Sunday	
The Two Towers	8:00 pm
30 Monday	
The Old Feeling	11:00 pm
31 Tuesday	
The Net	8:10 pm
1 Wednesday	
Swordfish	11:30 pm
2 Thursday	
Whit Oleander	11:20 pm

## CCTV-9 Monday - Friday

Around China	6:30 am
Cultural Express	8:30 am
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	11:30 am
Cultural Express	2:30 pm
Nature and Science /	
Chinese Civilization	5:30 pm
Dialogue	7:30 pm
News Updates /	
Asia Today	8 pm
Sports Scene	11:15 pm

## Saturday

Travelogue	9:30 am
Center Stage	11:30 am

## Sunday

Sports Weekend	10 am
Documentary	10:30 am
This Week	12:30 am

## China Radio International 91.5 FM

Monday - Friday	
Easy FM Afternoon	2-7 pm
Fun in Beijing	5-5:30 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Saturday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Euro Hit 40	12:05-1 pm
Music Sans Frontiers	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm
Sunday	
Music Memories	8:05-11 am
Jazz Beat	6:05-8 pm
Joy FM	9:05-11 pm

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By Zhang Jianzhong



The massed pipes and drums of the military tattoo traditionally open the Edinburgh Festival at the Esplanade at Edinburgh Castle.

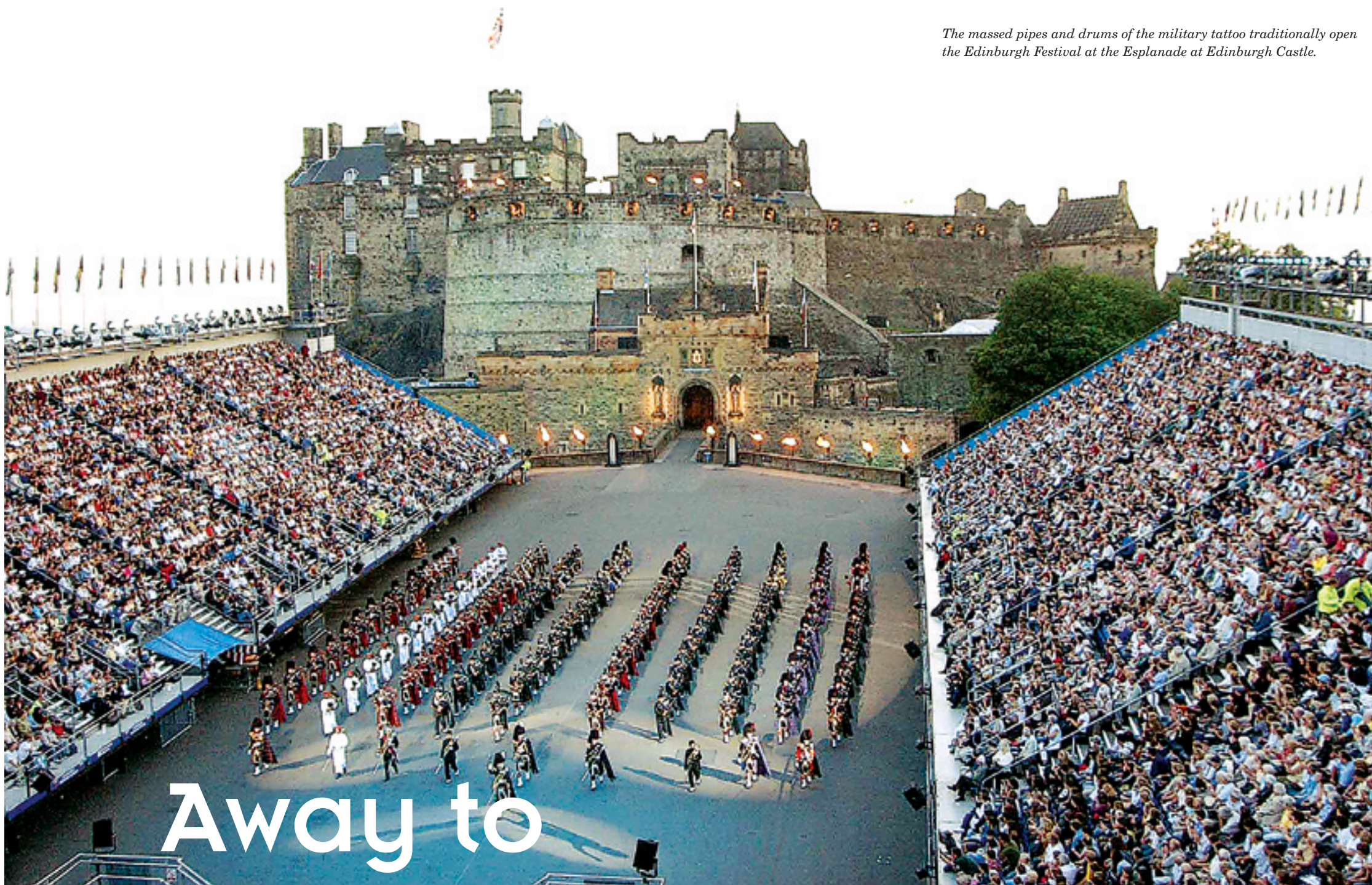


Photo by Imaginechina

# Away to Bonnie Edinburgh

By Hester

Scotland is so much not England, a fact about which the Scots are eternally proud. As the capital of Scotland, Edinburgh is at the same time a familiar metropolis with a mixed cultural background and ethnic population, and an unusual place instantly recognizable by the Scottish pipe music you will inevitably encounter, no matter how brief your visit.

Although the one-way streets make driving in the downtown area something of a nightmare for newcomers, public transport is reliable and easy to use, and contrary to what many first time visitors might believe, Scots actually do speak English, and are generally happy to point confused visitors in the right direction.

And while a month or even two would not be long enough to experience all that Edinburgh has to offer, it is possible to see some of the best in just a day or two.

## Edinburgh Castle

The sightseeing always starts with Edinburgh Castle. If Edinburgh is the crown of Scotland, the castle is no doubt the crown jewel. Perched on an extinct volcano and offering stunning views of the city and the Firth of Forth, this fortress is instantly recognizable as a powerful national symbol.

The castle has witnessed Scottish history from 600 AD and the crowning of numerous kings and queens. Its rich mix of architectural styles reflects the era of its construction: the tiny St. Margaret's Chapel, Edinburgh's oldest building, dates from the 1100s; Crown Square, the principal courtyard, was developed in the 15th century; the Great Hall was built by James IV; Half Moon Battery was created in the late 16th century.

The Scottish National War Memorial is a more recent addition, after the first prisoners of war were held here in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the "Honours of the Kingdom" exhibition, a plain-looking, roughly cut stone the size of a small dining table tells the story of Europe's oldest surviving regalia, the Stone of Destiny, returned to its original place from Westminster Abbey after it was taken in 1296. Over the generations, the kings and queens of Scotland



A street in the old town

Photos by Hester

were crowned on this stone.

## Old Town and New Town

Probably Edinburgh's oldest street, the Royal Mile connects the castle with the Palace of Holyrood House. The street is lined with ancient buildings, many of them open to the public, such as Lawnmarket, the Scottish Whisky Heritage Centre, St. Giles' Church, as well as several major museums. The Old Town is rich in specialist shops, small restaurants and intimate little bars.

The New Town, parallel with and just north of the Old Town, is known as Britain's perfect Georgian city. It remains largely residential today, providing Edinburgh with a living heart. Starting from The Mound at Princes Street, it boasts a delightful collection of architecture. Among them, the National Gallery of Scotland, a neo-classical struc-

ture that houses paintings by some of the greatest artists of Europe, including Raphael and Rembrandt; the Royal Scottish Academy, built between 1840 and 1844; Waverley Station; City Observatory and Nelson Monument. Heritage and museums

As a World Heritage listed city, Edinburgh boasts an impressive range of buildings, monuments, streets and points of interest. Its buildings reflect a mixed style of Mediaeval in the Old Town and Georgian in the New Town.

The Palace of Holyrood House, once one of the wealthiest abbeys in Scotland, is now the official residence in Scotland of the queen. The historic chambers of Mary Queen of Scots is situated beside the castle at the top of the Royal Mile. The Scotch Whisky Heritage Centre offers tours showing the whisky making process, and of course,

is also a perfect place to collect some of the best Scottish whiskies and memorabilia. Created by Sir John Steell, the statue of Sir Walter Scott, the great Scottish writer and orator, is a strikingly romantic gothic cenotaph soaring 200 feet in defiance of its neo-classical settings.

## Shopping

The Old Town provides a huge variety of shops catering to every taste, from whisky to the occult and from Highland dress to playing cards. There are galleries, antique shops, craft, jewellery and textile shops. For some of the most intriguing shops, and the most enjoyable food and drink, be sure to explore the Grassmarket and the Bridges and check out the interesting side streets and closes.

Along the Royal Mile you

will find shops that stock goods made in Scotland; cashmere sweaters, the finest of Scottish lambs wool, antiques and Scottish music CDs. Two independent department stores are Jenners on Princess Street, and Aitken and Niven on George Street. Jenners offers a wide selection of products of designer names, authentic tartans, cashmeres and lambswool knits. Good places to look for second-hand and antique art, jewellery and books are around the New Town, Broughton Street, Victoria Street and the Grassmarket.

## Dining

Forget what you have heard about lousy British food, people in Edinburgh do know how and where to enjoy a wide selection of delicious cuisine.

For seafood lovers, The Shore is one of the best-known fish restaurants in the area. You can choose the slightly more formal restaurant area or the pub lunch feel of the main bar. It has a very relaxed atmosphere and the food is excellent. The bar often has live jazz and folk sessions. It can get very busy but Fishers, Skippers and Ship on the Shore are all within five minutes walk if you have your heart set on a seafood supper.

For those inclined toward a more classical style of dining, Café Florentin, off the Royal Mile is the perfect place. Deliciously sticky pain aux raisin is a must, as is the opera cake, a dark chocolate and coffee sponge soaked in a liquor.

The first to mix internet and eating in Scotland, Cyberia on Hanover Street is worth trying for its cool silver-and-stone interior and superior coffee, the staff are helpful regardless of whether you're logging on or having a quick meal. Or, if you're not too picky, try any of the small restaurants by the road side, the baguette (a long bread cut in the middle and filled with meat, vegetable or tuna and covered with various dressing) makes a substantial lunch at a minimal price.

For those hopelessly missing Chinese food, there are plenty of restaurants serving full course, snack food or takeaway.

The best time for a visit to Edinburgh is August and September, before the rainy season and while the Edinburgh International Festival is in full

swing. If your schedule allows, don't miss the Edinburgh Military Tattoo held in the Esplanade at the Edinburgh Castle, where soldiers in traditional Scottish uniform parade in formation and the marching band perform tunes echoing a glorious and often tragic past.

## Accommodation

If money is not your primary concern, choose the Caledonian Hilton Hotel, one of Edinburgh's oldest and finest hotels in the heart of the city. Many rooms have magnificent views of the castle. Single rooms start from £160 (2,400 yuan) per night.

On a moderate budget, the Glenora Hotel, located at the west end of the city centre is an ideal place. Single rooms start from £45 to £69 (675-1,035 yuan) per night, depending on the season. Enjoy the very Victorian decoration with ornate cornices and plasterwork, brass servant's bells and speaking tubes. The breakfast menus offer traditional Scottish breakfast with a selection of grilled dishes. (www.glenorahotel.co.uk)

The best choice for backpackers and students are B&B (bed and breakfast) and small hostels. There are plenty in town. If you are prepared to forgo a little comfort to leave more to spend on dining and entertainment, Globetrotter Inns offer clean linen, hot showers and free breakfast for only £14 per night (RMB210). (www.globetrotterinns.com)

## Tax

Tax rate is 17.5 percent in the UK. After shopping in Edinburgh, be sure to get receipts and fill out the VAT tax reclaim form in the store. When you leave the UK from London airport, find the tax reclaim office, show your receipt and tax form with your passport, you can collect a cash refund.

## Getting there

There are no direct flights to Edinburgh from China. To save the trouble of having to connect in a third country, you can either fly or take the train from London. A London-Edinburgh round trip with EasyJet costs from £15 to £60, while a Virgin Train ticket can be as cheap as £30, depending on the season and how advanced your booking is. A Beijing-London return airfare costs between 6,000 and 8,000 yuan.

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